

# *Aid for Palestine*

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Nickolay Mladenov, UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, has warned that nearly half of the Palestinian population in the West Bank and Gaza Strip need humanitarian aid due to Israel's ongoing aggressions.

The UN representative added that two and a half million people -- or 47% of the Palestinian inhabitants in that area -- require humanitarian assistance.

The constant attacks and the violence against civilians have increased during this year and the main victims are often children, Mladenov denounced in a final assessment of his management.

One of the problems in the occupied West Bank territories is the construction of illegal Jewish settlements, which are built on land forcibly taken from Palestinian families.

The international community has condemned this practice of the Tel Aviv government, and still, nothing effective has been done to stop it. Moreover, outgoing U.S. President Donald Trump encouraged Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to continue building illegal settlements.

The so-called "Deal of the Century" for the Middle East, drawn up by Washington, even considers the option that the occupying country will incorporate into its sovereignty all the usurped lands during and after the Six Day War in June 1967, thus destroying the possibility of creating a Palestinian state.

If they manage to achieve this objective, the Jordan Valley, where the best and most fertile soil of the area is located, would be transferred to Israel and tens of thousands of families would lose their ancestral lands.

Mladenov, who will be replaced in his position by the Norwegian diplomat Tor Wennesland, also questioned the systematic demolition of common use buildings and Palestinian homes in the West Bank and East Jerusalem.

According to UN statistics, Tel Aviv destroyed or confiscated 178 Palestinian structures in November, the highest number in the last decade. Many of them had been built with funds from European Union cooperation.

A dramatic incident occurred on November 3 in the Bedouin village of Humsa al Bquia, where 83 buildings were demolished in a single day, 29 of which were to meet humanitarian purposes. More than 70 people, including 49 children, were left in the streets because of these actions.

The Zionist administrative authorities claim that these structures lack a permit granted by a military apparatus that controls the occupation in the West Bank, but this document is practically impossible to obtain.

Thus ends another year for people that suffer from the indifference of the international community, which has done very little to implement the UN resolutions to establish two states -- one Palestinian and the other Israeli -- intended to live peacefully and with the re-establishment of the pre-1967 borders.

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