



Area C, 60% of the West Bank, is home to some 300,000 Palestinians, and is the support system for Areas A and B: it hosts the mountain aquifer, the farmland=breadbasket, the Jordan border=sovereignty, contiguity, provides access to Jerusalem=[35%](#) of the potential Palestinian economy due to tourism, road systems, and land for growth or natural expansion. Is this "warehousing"? Think Gaza. Think David Ben Gurion:

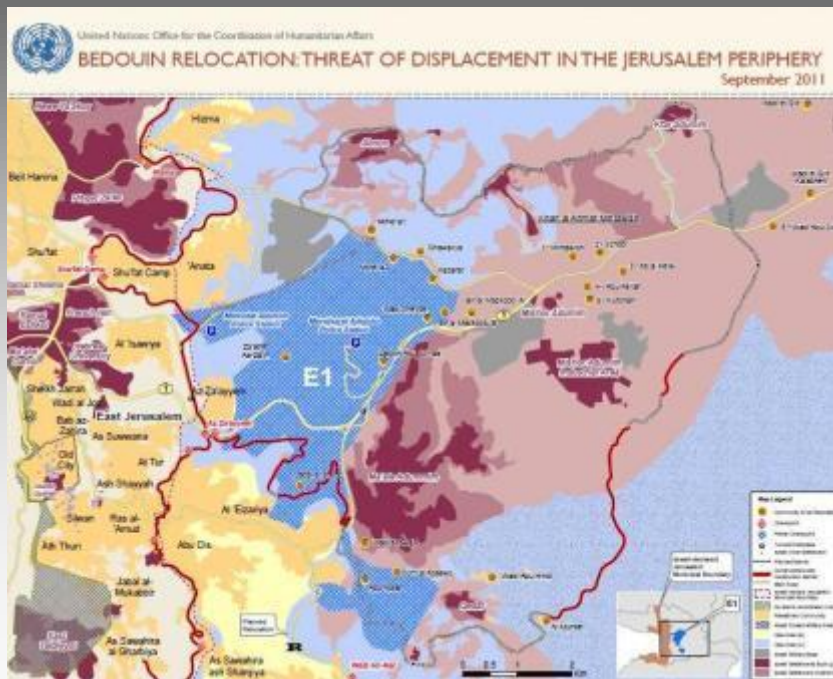
"The strategic objective [of the Jewish forces] was to destroy the urban communities, which were the most organized and politically conscious sections of the Palestinian people. This was not done by house-to-house fighting inside the cities and towns, but by the conquest and destruction of the rural areas surrounding most of the towns. This technique led to the collapse and surrender of Haifa, Jaffa, Tiberias, Safed, Acre, Beit-Shan, Lydda, Ramleh, Majdal, and Beersheba. Deprived of transportation, food, and raw materials, the urban communities underwent a process of disintegration, chaos, and hunger, which forced them to surrender."
(Simha Flapan, *The Birth of Israel*) [photo credit: Adrian Guerin]

متضامنون مع الجهالين

JAHALIN SOLIDARITY



Where have we been working?



Jahalin Solidarity is a Palestinian non-profit, registered in 2016 by the PA Ministry of Economy. Its four staff, working with expert consultants, advocate about forcible displacement impacting Bedouin Jahalin refugee communities in Jerusalem Periphery, including Al Jib, Sateh al Bahr (Sea Level), Wadi abu Hindi, Al Khan al Ahmar, Anata, Jaba'a and other E-1 communities, as well as in East Jerusalem. The by-laws of Jahalin Solidarity focus on advocacy in solidarity with Bedouin and East Jerusalemites facing imminent forcible displacement by Israel's colonial settlement expansion policies, while the organisation works to empower all those targeted, including women, to defend their rights. Jahalin Solidarity works for these goals, including free Palestinian access to Jerusalem as capital of a future Palestinian state, in coalition with various actors: Bab al Shams Village Council, Palestinian popular committees, Fatah Youth, Israeli civil society and internationals. For example, in 2017, Jahalin Solidarity organised and held a 2-day training in human rights for 120 Bedouin women, with German Federal funding, contracting expert consultants: Sidreh, a feminist Bedouin NGO in the Naqab, to conduct the trainings, with Bedouin women graduate facilitators (PhD/Masters level); 80 trainees came from OPT, and 40 from unrecognised villages.

Advocacy is ongoing and our strategy is multifaceted

Jahalin Solidarity's advocacy strategy is multifaceted and strong, both engaging media locally, including Arabic media, and abroad to expose the reality facing beneficiaries. Television broadcasts and print articles are essential to increase public awareness in order to change political policy as to Area C and to ensure protection under IHL/IHRL for Bedouin communities. To this end, Jahalin Solidarity assists many journalists writing on these issues. By advocating to photo-journalists and videographers, including conducting field trips for them, Jahalin Solidarity contributes to many reputable news outlets. Fakhri abu Diab, Jahalin Solidarity's co-director, and the elected spokesman for Silwan, conducts 3,000+ media interviews in Arabic annually.

Another component of our advocacy is to provide the wider public and decision makers with information from the ground, by guiding tours that help shape and change public policy and the political discussion. As an example, a Labour2Palestine delegation in 2017 of Sheffield Labour city councillors, with a Labour member of the UK Parliament, MP Paul Blomfield, MEP Linda McAvan and other solidarity activists were guided to Al Khan al Ahmar, Az-Zayyem, and Jabal West. Other groups visited Sateh al Bahr, Jaba'a and The Jabal, so increasing public understanding of illegal expansion of settlements at the expense of Jahalin Bedouin forced displacement, a grave breach of IHL.

During 2017, Jahalin Solidarity's advocacy has been focused on defending the Jahalin Bedouin at Al Khan al Ahmar, where in 2009 co-director Godfrey helped fund building of the car tyres school, now facing imminent demolition. Jahalin Solidarity worked with a range of advocates and the community, including advising Dr. Alice Panepinto of Queens Belfast and Helen Eisler, when they made the film [THE SCHOOL AT AL KHAN AL AHMAR](#).



Our Advocacy Tour



Jahalin Solidarity hosted hundreds of critical, alternative tourists from around the world throughout the year, as well as diplomats, politicians, NGO workers, human rights defenders and journalists in field trips and orientation interviews.

Our political tour is an essential part of our advocacy to visitors to the Jahalin communities and the Occupied Palestinian Territories. These facts on the ground field trips focus on E-1/Jerusalem periphery as conducted by staff members Angela Godfrey and Fakhri abu Diab (who advocates on this issue to all the Arabic media on a daily basis).

Objective of the visit

- Insight and information about Israeli and Palestinian political history and the conflict
- Overview about Palestinian life in Jerusalem
- Knowledge about the situation in East Jerusalem, discrimination as to Palestinians, and mainstream thinking in Israeli society
- Understanding of displacement issues, especially Israeli policies as to future viability of Palestine with the E-1 Development Displacement Plan being central to that understanding.

Duration: 3-4 hours

Cost: \$170.00 (plus transport) to be shared by participants

Advocacy through Film...

Jahalin Solidarity's films at its website (or via links) [NOWHERE LEFT TO GO](#) (2011) and [HIGH HOPES](#) (2015) advocate against Israeli plans for forcible displacement of Bedouin, showing how Bedouin themselves feel about forcible transfer, what it actually looks like as implemented, using archive 1990s footage from BBC and Associated Press, and the symbiotic nature of forced displacement and its accompanying coercive environment, with settlement expansion. Under IHL and IHRL, these are war crimes, also defined by an Oxford professor as a process of cultural genocide.

The trailer of [HIGH HOPES](#) is at [Vimeo.com](#); Helen Eisler's short [THE SCHOOL AT AL KHAN AL AHMAR](#), with whose production Jahalin Solidarity assisted, is also at [Jahalin.org](#).

Pink Floyd donated the rights to their song, HIGH HOPES, as soundtrack for the film, to Jahalin Solidarity and Guy Davidi (co-director of award winning "Five Broken Cameras").

HIGH HOPES has won 14 international film festival awards, screening in 50+ festivals, including The Boston Palestinian Film Festival at Harvard Law School. In September 2017, HIGH HOPES won a prize at the Nazra Palestine Short Film Festival, launched in Venice in parallel timing as the main Venice Film Festival. The Nazara judges stated:

Winner in the category "Best documentary short film by an international author"

"High Hopes", for its remarkable ability to expose the relationship between propaganda and reality, as revealed by the shameful evacuation of a Bedouin clan during the Oslo negotiations. The pressing rhythm of the editing highlights in a merciless way the blatant contradiction between peace announcements and the criminal behaviors of the Israeli army.



Partnership with Bab al Shams Village Council was motivated by our organizations' joint goal to protect Jerusalem as a shared capital, using non-violent strategies, and to reject the E-1 Development/ Displacement plan

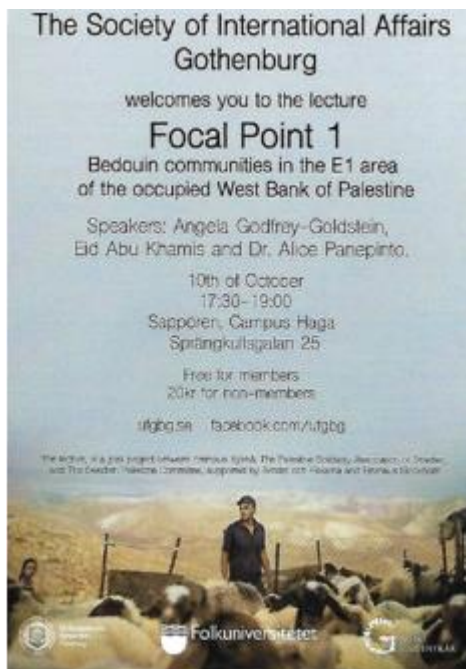


Advocacy efforts abroad...

Jahalin Solidarity's advocacy strategy includes outreach abroad. Supported by French Consulate and Swiss Development funding, at the invitation of UN OHCHR, in May 2017, Jahalin Solidarity organised a delegation to Jordan of Bedouin advocates and two Palestinians from an Area C village under regular military attack, to brief UN Special Rapporteur for Human Rights in the OPT, Prof. Michael Lynk.

In October, Jahalin Solidarity's co-director, Angela Godfrey, with Al Khan al Ahmar's spokesman, Eid abu Khamis Jahalin, and Dr. Alice Panepinto, a legal expert from Queens Belfast, undertook a Swedish speaking tour funded by solidarity groups, to Gothenburg, Uppsala and Stockholm, and to Oslo and nearby Norwegian towns, addressing the forcible displacement to be caused by the E-1 plan. HIGH HOPES was screened at all events: at schools, universities, public meetings, media, churches, NGOs, Foreign Ministries and to members of parliament; in Oslo, Jahalin Solidarity's co-director, Godfrey, and Eid abu Khamis met with the main farmers' union, too.

The main advocacy message during all Swedish and Norwegian meetings was the responsibility of Third States to prevent such grave breaches of IHL and IHRL, understanding of the strategic nature of Area C, as the support system for Areas A + B and the role of the Jahalin as "gatekeepers of Jerusalem and guardians of the two state solution." Jahalin Solidarity co-director Godfrey has thus worked to achieve diplomatic presence in Jerusalem at High Court hearings as to Bedouin forcible displacement, while also sending legal advocacy updates to a list of 500 diplomats (including in capitals), journalists, NGO workers and human rights defenders.



GOTHENBURG PUBLIC MEETING



ABU KHAMIS AT THE NORWEGIAN FM

Advocacy efforts at home...

In February, 2017 the entire village of Al Khan al Ahmar received demolition orders: Jahalin Solidarity initiated a wide range of advocacy, including an invitation to the Jerusalem Committee of the Joint List in the Knesset. As a result MKs, on March 7, 2017, Dr. Ahmed Tibi, Jamal Zahalke and Taleb abu Srour made a solidarity visit to the community, together with media, to hear from the community and Jahalin Solidarity. A video of Jahalin Solidarity co-director, Angela Godfrey, explaining the political significance of the E-1 Development Plan, and the current rush to move the Jahalin from Al Khan al Ahmar, is at the following [video clip](#), of March 7, 2017:



Similarly, following her presentation in 2016 to the European Parliament's DPAL Committee, Godfrey invited the committee's delegation to Al Khan al Ahmar, which visit took place in March 2017.



Advocacy efforts at home...

Amongst participants in regular tours guided by Jahalin Solidarity have been parliamentarians from the UK Parliament, from the European Parliament, from UK city councils and Young Fabians.



Jahalin Solidarity has guided many diplomats, including from the US State Department and US Consulate. A short film (www.jahalin.org) was made for Nazra FF award ceremony in Rome, honouring HIGH HOPES, hosted by Luisa Morgantini, The European Parliament's ex-Vice President.



WOMANPOWER SOUTH NORTH: Two day human rights trainings for 120 Bedouin women



In July 2017, Jahalin Solidarity organised a 2-day training in human rights for 120 Bedouin women, with German Federal funding, contracting expert consultants, Sidreh, a feminist Bedouin NGO, to conduct trainings by Bedouin women graduate facilitators (PhD/Masters level). Eighty trainees came from the OPT, and 40 from unrecognised villages in the Naqab. 30+ women now request continuation of the sessions and English lessons, so they may start to advocate. A Bedouin woman graduate English teacher, in Al Jib, invested her payment for co-ordination from Jahalin Solidarity in driving lessons; she is now the first Bedouin woman refugee in OPT to have a driving licence; she continues to give English lessons to her community, especially the children, on a voluntary basis.

PARLIAMENTARY LOBBYING: In September, Jahalin Solidarity authored a letter, calling on the UK Government to prevent demolition of the school and village at Al Khan al Ahmar, signed by 26 members of a cross-party group, led by MP Richard Burden, addressed to Min. Alistair Burt, as below. The response has been received (also below), as has a response from the Irish Foreign Minister, to whom a similar letter was sent by Sen. David Norris, on receipt of the letter to Min. Burt, as forwarded to him by an activist. Jahalin Solidarity is planning a social media campaign to follow up these initiatives. Continued advocacy for international pressure to uphold international law and prevent the policies currently proposed by both PM Netanyahu and Defence Minister Liberman, is the only realistic means of preventing acts which, if carried out, are defined as war crimes.



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Alistair Burt MP
Minister of State for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Foreign & Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
London
SW1A 2AH

Dear Alistair,

19 September 2017

On 25 September 2017 Israel's High Court will hear a petition from residents of an illegal settlement, Kfar Adumim, calling for the demolition of the "car tyres and mud" school at Al Khan al Ahmar and the village, a refugee Bedouin community in Area C of the Occupied West Bank, where 170 children (aged 6-14) are educated. This would follow the recent demolition of other schools in Area C such as the donor-funded kindergarten at Jabal al Baba on 21 August, 2017. We, the undersigned cross-party group of politicians, urge the British government to exert decisive political, diplomatic, and economic pressure on the Israeli authorities such that they realise the regressive consequences of the school's destruction.

In March this year the United Kingdom signed an EU démarche calling for cessation of attempts to demolish the Al Khan Al Ahmar school, one of 55 schools in Area C bearing demolition orders. Despite that démarche, the case is still pending and local children must live with continued uncertainty about their access to education and the prospect of a dignified future. Having visited the village as Minister in January 2012, you will remember the coercive environment of threatened demolition, illegal settlement expansion and forcible displacement that they experience as a daily reality.

As a signatory to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the UK government has a duty both to condemn and to urge an immediate halt to the school's demolition which would inevitably breach Article 28 and the right to a primary education that it protects. Moreover, the prospective destruction of the wider village would be a grave violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention. Article 53 of that convention prohibits the destruction of personal property by an occupying power unless rendered absolutely necessary by military operations.

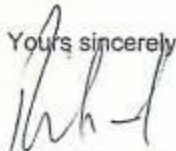
Despite these potential infringements of international law, Israel's plans for demolition and forced relocation remain the status quo in the Occupied Territory. To quote Hagai El-Ad, director of the Israeli human rights NGO B'Tselem, '2016 was the best year on record in terms of international statements against the demolishing of Palestinian homes on the West

Bank, and the worst year on record in terms of demolitions.' The organisation has just issued a public warning to Defence Minister Avigdor Lieberman that displacements which he plans, of Al Khan al Ahmar and Sussiya (which you recently visited), would constitute war crimes.

The strategic ramifications of Al Khan Al Ahmar's destruction also cannot be underestimated. Should the demolition orders be enforced, East Jerusalem will be cut off from the West Bank's Palestinian population by the E-1 Plan, jeopardising the contiguity of any future Palestinian state and thus undermining an already fragile two-state solution.

The demolition of Al Khan Al Ahmar would be an act of flagrant disrespect by Israel both of the will of the international community and of the international legal order. In light of the urgent situation, we therefore call on you to make meaningful representations to the Israeli authorities about the upcoming court hearing and use every possible means of preventing the demolition.

Yours sincerely,



Richard Burden MP
Chair of Britain-Palestine All Party Parliamentary Group

Co-signed by:

Clive Betts MP (Labour)
Baroness Tessa Blackstone (Labour)
Crispin Blunt MP (Conservative)
Sir Peter Bottomley MP (Conservative)
Tracy Brabin MP (Labour)
Alan Brown MP (SNP)
Alistair Carmichael MP (Liberal Democrat)
Sarah Champion MP (Labour)
Joanna Cherry QC MP (SNP)
Louise Haigh MP (Labour)
David Jones MP (Conservative)
Caroline Lucas MP (Green)
Gordon Marsden MP (Labour)
Sandy Martin MP (Labour)
Andy McDonald MP (Labour)
Matthew Pennycook MP (Labour)
Baroness Shas Sheehan (Liberal Democrat)
Tommy Sheppard MP (SNP)
Paula Sherriff MP (Labour)
Andy Slaughter MP (Labour)
Kelly Tolhurst MP (Conservative)
Lord Norman Warner (Crossbench)
Baroness Sayeeda Warsi (Conservative)
Lord Stewart Wood (Labour)
William Wragg MP (Conservative)



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office



Department
for International
Development

11 October 2017

Our reference: MIN/112837/2017

Richard Burden MP
Chair of Britain-Palestine All Party Parliamentary Group
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Thank you for your letter of 19 September on behalf of the Britain-Palestine All Party Parliamentary Group, about Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPTs).

The Government remains gravely concerned about continued demolition of Palestinian property by the Israeli authorities including proposals to demolish the Bedouin villages of Khan al-Ahmar and Susiya. The UK has repeatedly called on the Israeli authorities to halt proposals to demolish these communities.

As you are aware, the UK position on demolitions in the OPTs is clear: they cause unnecessary suffering to ordinary Palestinians; call into question Israel's commitment to a viable two-state solution; and are, in all but the most exceptional of cases, contrary to International Humanitarian Law (IHL). The Fourth Geneva Convention is clear that the destruction of any real or personal property in occupied territory is not justified unless it is rendered absolutely necessary by military operations. We also make clear to Israel that forcible transfer of protected persons would be a breach of IHL and would have serious ramifications on Israel's international standing.

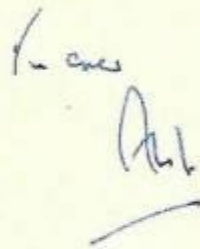
Demolitions in Khan al-Ahmar and Susiya are also a specific risk as they could pave the way for settlement building in E1, threatening the possibility of a two-state solution with Jerusalem as a shared capital.

Prior to the most recently scheduled Israeli High Court hearing about Khan al-Ahmar on 25 September, our Embassy in Tel Aviv raised our concerns with the Israeli authorities on 24 September. An official from our Consulate-General in Jerusalem most recently visited Khan al-Ahmar on 20 September highlighting our concerns and to show our continuing support for the village. The Foreign Secretary expressed our concern about the proposals when he met Prime Minister Netanyahu in Israel on 8 March. I understand the Khan al-Ahmar and Susiya hearings have now been postponed.

But like you, I am concerned by the continued risk the community faces, as well as the broader trends on demolitions. According to the UN, in 2016 Israel demolished 1051 structures in the West Bank displacing 1494 people. This is almost double the number of demolitions in 2015. We continue to urge the Israeli authorities to cease the counter-productive policy of demolitions and provide a clear, transparent route to construction for Palestinians in Area C.

The Government also gives practical support to the Bedouin communities and Palestinians facing demolition or eviction in Area C of the West Bank through our funding to the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) legal aid programme. This helps residents challenge decisions in the Israeli legal system. The NRC have secured the suspension of demolitions or evictions in 97 per cent of the cases where they have provided legal assistance, allowing Palestinians to remain in their homes.

We will continue to press the parties on the need to refrain from actions which make peace more difficult. Settlement construction and demolitions are significant barriers to achieving this goal, as are terrorism, incitement to violence, and the refusal by some to acknowledge Israel's right to exist. We do not underestimate the challenges, but if both parties show bold leadership, peace is possible. The UK is ready to do all it can to support this goal.



THE RT HON ALISTAIR BURT MP
Minister of State for the Middle East and North Africa

Thank you, and colleagues, for your continued interest and concern for an issue on which I sincerely wish for progress

SIOMÓN Ó CÓMHANAIGH T.D.
AIRE GNÓTHAÍ EACHTRACHA AGUS TRÁDÁLA
BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH 2
D02 VY53



SIMON COVENEY T.D.
MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE
DUBLIN 2
D02 VY53

Senator David Norris
Seanad Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

8 November 2017

Our Ref: MEU170197

Dear Senator Norris,

Thank you for your letter of 5 October 2017 concerning the situation in Palestine. I am aware of the demolition order to which you refer. I answered a Parliamentary Question in the Dáil on this topic, and on the similar case of Susiya, on 3 October. I have copied my response below for ease of reference:

“Demolitions, evictions and related policies threatening Palestinian communities in the West Bank are a central focus of the Government’s engagement on the conflict in the Middle East. These policies drive Palestinians off the land in Area C, which comprises the majority of the West Bank, facilitating subsequent occupation by Israeli settlers. The EU has consistently stated that such policies pose a threat to negotiations on a two-state solution. Forcible transfer of this nature is expressly outlawed under international law.

It should also be noted that many of those communities, which are now under threat, are located where they are because they have already been relocated once from their former homes in Israel.

The specific cases cited by the Deputies are just two of many communities so threatened. Both villages have been under threat of demolition for many years, and the Israeli Defence Minister has recently stated that both removals will be carried out within months. There are legal processes still ongoing in both cases, but there is no doubt about the real threat to these communities.

My Department has been engaged with the cases of these two communities for several years, and previous Ministers have reported on our actions in that regard, including visits to the sites and attendance at court hearings. In the case of Khan al Ahmar, the Irish representative in Ramallah visited the village with a high-level diplomatic group on 20 September, in advance of the court hearing scheduled for 25 September, which was later postponed. He also met with the lawyer defending the community.



Jahalin Solidarity invited the diplomatic community to Al Khan al Ahmar for a legal update by Adv. Lecker, the community's lawyer, on September 20, 2017 as stated in the Irish Foreign Minister's letter above.



Eid abu Khamis, Angela Godfrey, Dr. Alice Panepinto with Anna Wester of Palestinagrupperna i Sverige (PGS) and a Palestinian translator, outside the Swedish Parliament in October, 2017

It is unfortunately not possible for our missions to follow all these cases in detail, or be present at each hearing, but we cooperate with other EU missions to try and ensure as wide a coverage as possible. Ireland also supports Israeli and Palestinian NGOs involved in defending and assisting threatened communities on the ground.

We also regularly convey to the Israeli authorities our views both on these overall policies and on specific cases. We do this via the Embassy of Israel in Ireland, or directly with the Foreign Ministry and other authorities in Israel, and in other contacts. I also raised these concerns myself in my various meetings during my visit in July. The Government of Israel is very well aware of our views.”

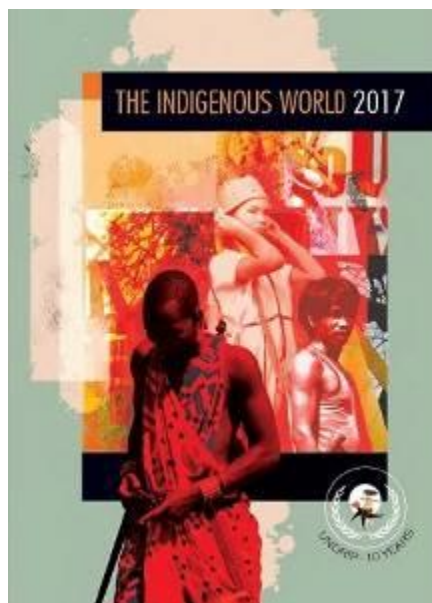
I would like to assure you that I will continue to give a high priority to this issue.

Yours sincerely,



Simon Coveney T.D.
Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade

Finally, Jahalin Solidarity’s co-director Godfrey submitted a paper to the [IWGIA Yearbook](#) “The Indigenous World 2017”, launched annually at the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), having written the Palestine entry since 2011.



WHY IS THIS ISSUE URGENT? WHERE ARE WE GOING?

In the 1990s, the journey from Bethlehem to Ramallah (24 kms) took some 20 minutes. Today -- at least an hour. Once E-1 is divested of its Bedouin "gatekeepers of Jerusalem," and the Wall finished around Ma'ale Adumim, the journey via Jericho will take over two hours, with steep gradients on the "snake road," and Israeli roads and building plans at E1 dividing the West Bank, preventing free access to Jerusalem from the east (as implemented already in the north and south by the settlements, Wall and checkpoints), thereby negating Palestinian viability, undermining any possibility of peace or two states and continuing the disastrous processes of Israeli control.

Israeli-planned Palestinian Road Passages Around Jerusalem

