

PRESS RELEASE!

The Human Right to Adequate Housing in Occupied Territories of the World!

A joint statement of representatives of Tibet, Palestine & Kurdistan in conjunction with Habitat International Coalition (HIC)

During the plenary session “The Right to Adequate Housing: A major commitment of the Habitat Agenda”. Organized by UNCHS (Habitat), OCHCHR and the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat (GPH). Conference room 4 on the 6th of June 2001 the following statement was made.

Realization of right to adequate housing is critical to the realization of UN’s Conventions on Human Rights and particularly the Covenant on Economic, Social & cultural Rights (CESCR). The report of the UN Special Rapporteur and the chairperson of the CESCR supported the statement and reminded the session on shortcomings in the current draft.

If the Habitat Agenda’s core principle is to provide adequate shelter to all and institute sustainable human settlement development in a rapidly urbanizing world as mentioned right in the beginning of the preamble of the agenda, we, the peoples of occupied territories, feel completely excluded.

It is a grave injustice to the indigenous population living in those territories. The forceful eviction/expulsion, demolition of traditional housing spheres, population transfer and land confiscation continues to take place at a national and regional level.

The governments of the Peoples Republic of China and Israel and Turkey, which freely ratified most UN conventions and joined pious declarations, are directly responsible for this dismal situation.

Planning Council, Central Tibetan Administration, Gangchen Kyishong, Dharamsala, (H.P.) India.

Al Haq, Law in the Service of Man, Ramallah, Palestine

Kurdish Movement for Human Rights

Land Research Center, Jerusalem

Adalah, The Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights In Israel