



Paris, the 27 January 2020.

Madam Director-General,

Follow up to our last letter, dated 17th January 2020, concerning the Israeli violations in the Old Town of Hebron/Al-Khalil, please find herewith a letter from the Director General of the Hebron Rehabilitation Committee as well as a short report from our Minister of Tourism and Antiquities.

We kindly ask you, Madam Director-General, to annex the attached letter and report to the appropriate working document of the Executive Board in its 209th session.

Please accept, Madam Director-General, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Mounir Anastas
Ambassador, Alternate Permanent Delegate

Mrs. Audrey Azoulay
Director General of UNESCO
Bur 6 022

Cc : President of the General Conference
Chairperson of the Executive Board
Assistant Director-General for Culture



Hebron Rehabilitation Committee

لجنة إعمار الخليل

To : Mr. Mounir Anastas

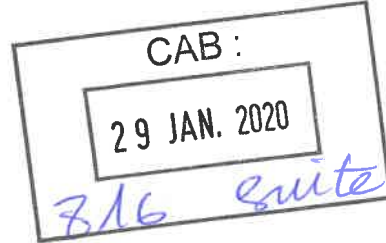
Palestinian Ambassador to UNESCO

From : Emad Hamdan

Hebron Rehabilitation Committee

Ref : (1201/s/2019)

Date : 19 December. 2019



Establishing a New Settlement in the old vegetable market of Hebron Old City

On first of Dec. 2019, The Israeli Minister, Naftali Bennett , ordered the construction of a new settlement building and a large neighborhood for Israeli settlers in the old vegetable market and the demolition of dozens of Palestinian shops in the area. Establishing such a new settlement in the old city of Hebron will result in losing historical buildings that would be demolished and it would also harm the general historical landscape of Hebron's old city.

It's worth to indicate that the mentioned neighborhood is located in the core zone of the World Heritage Site of Hebron, which is listed on the World Heritage List.

The Hebron Rehabilitation Committee condemns this order as an illegal act and a violation of international agreements and laws, and asks you to intervene to stop this violation that threatens Hebron's old city as a World Heritage Property and the historic fabric of Hebron's old city.

The HRC is also concerned that more violations are to be committed against Hebron as a World Heritage Location due to this situation, restrictions are to be forced, increased tension and conflict on the historic buildings of the area, and end any hope for a peaceful solution.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Emad Hamdan

General Director of the HRC



Cc: Ministry of Tourism

Cc: ref

Cc: file



Date: 26/12/2019



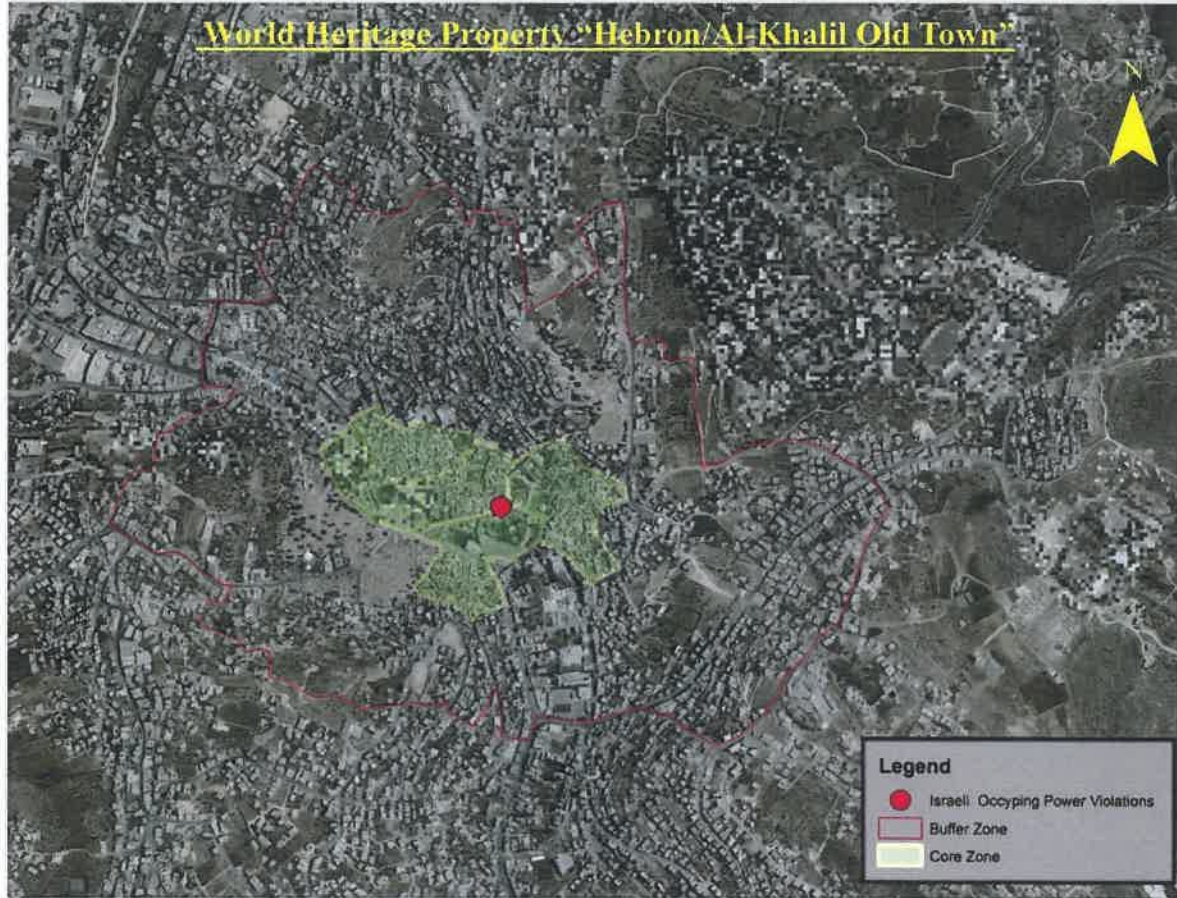
Report on

The Israeli Occyping Power recent violations in the World Heritage Property "Hebron/Al-Khalil Old Town"

On Sunday December 1, The Isreali Defense Minister Naftali Bennett announced his approval for planning of a new Jewish neighborhood in the heart of the World Heritage Property "Hebron/Al-Khalil Old Town".

The Israeli Occyping Power informed the Hebron Municipality that it plans to build a new illegal colonial settlement inside the old market " Al- Hesba" in the heart of the World Heritage Property. This planned settlement will increase the number of Isreali settlers inside the city, and theWhole Vigetable Market's historic buildings will be demolished and new stores will be built instead, which will severely affect the Outstading Values of the World Hertitage Property.

The high-rises buildings and the use of concrete and stone conflicts with the vernacular materials used over centuries, are expected to harm the historical fabric and the visual landscape in the core zone irreversibly. Furthermore, it will affect the authentic sense of place of the WHP as being an old town based on cultural, social and religious values. Moreover, such construction and the subsequent harmful and irreversible negative impacts will have serious and detrimental effects on the Outstanding Universal Value of the WHP and its integrity, authenticity, and distinctive characteristics.



Location of the New Planned Settlement at the heart of the WHP.