

Palestinian prime minister calls for end to Israel's racism in al-Quds

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Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh (C) speaks during a weekly cabinet meeting in the central occupied West Bank city of Ramallah on August 2, 2021. (Photo by Wafa news agency)

Ramallah, August 3 (RHC)-- Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh has called upon the international community to put an end to the Israeli regime's policies of persecution, racism, and ethnic cleansing against Palestinians in the occupied East al-Quds neighborhood of Sheikh Jarrah and Silwan,

which are being carried out in order to make way for extremist Jewish settlers.

Speaking during a weekly cabinet meeting in the central West Bank city of Ramallah on Monday, Shtayyeh described the Israeli judicial system as a cover for the regime's policies against Palestinians throughout the entire occupied territories.

He noted that such policies are in blatant violation of the international law as well as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) – adopted by the United Nations General Assembly as Resolution 217, stressing that Israeli authorities are exercising the policies and practices of apartheid as numerous distinguished human rights bodies have pointed to the fact in their reports.

The Palestinian prime minister also warned that Israeli authorities are seeking to seize control of Palestinian land in al-Quds by advancing settlement construction plans. He said the Tel Aviv regime is trying to usurp Palestinian-owned land, confiscate their property and forcibly evict them from their homes by means of the so-called Absentee Property Law of 1950.

The measure was enacted for permanent expropriation of property left by the 750,000 Palestinian refugees displaced during the 1948 war. It actually prevents Palestinian refugees from returning to their homes. Shtayyeh finally called on Israel to stop its settlement expansion activities in the occupied West Bank as the occupying regime has no right to do so.

Sheikh Jarrah has been the scene of frequent crackdowns by Israeli police on Palestinians protesting against the threatened expulsion of dozens of Palestinian families from their homes in favor of hardline Israeli settler groups.

Israel calls it “a real estate dispute” while Palestinians and rights groups say the case highlights discriminatory policies aimed at pushing Palestinians out of al-Quds. Silwan, home to about 33,000 Palestinians, is located outside the walls of the Old City of al-Quds and its sacred sites.

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