

NGO - Jerusalem Bedouin Cooperative Committee on Item V

Muhammad Kurshain of the Jerusalem Bedouin Cooperative Committee. Madam Chairperson, ladies and gentlemen, the Palestinian economy is made of three main segments and each segment supports the other and complements it. The first segments is the Bedouins who have work in animal husbandry and who produce dairy products and meat products. The second segment is farmers and villagers, they are behind the agriculture sector and the serial sector. The third is the trade segment which takes in the products of villagers and Bedouins. Any segment that does not work efficiently will effect the whole Palestinian economy this is what happened. The prices of meat and dairy products in the West bank have risen because of increasing unemployment that is why we cannot speak of employment rights for minorities because the basic and essential work for Bedouins is not secure and is on the verge of collapse. And this has a terrible effect on the Bedouin communities.

It is necessary to invest in education in order to assess the Bedouins to continue to have their livelihood as it is difficult to maintain life in Bedouin conditions where there is no sufficient infrastructure, Bedouins cannot compete with urban dwellers or villagers who have much better education opportunities. Furthermore, the Palestinian education system does not offer opportunities for these marginalised groups although some countries do offer education that is subsidised by state for Bedouins. We are speaking of social security here. Health services for Bedouin communities barely exist because of living in distant areas and high transportation costs as well as numerous Israeli checkpoints around Bedouin communities. Among the recommendations I would like to remind you that we asked for protections for minorities under occupation, finally we have to following recommendations it is important to obtain basic services including decent housing, healthcare, safe drinking water and water for cattle as well as education and food. We also recommend access to adequate education if occupation troops...of sorry.. are recommend to stop destroying schools and houses and support transportation towards and from schools. There should also be a development education grants for Bedouins to give them access to higher education. Thank you.