

Speech of Mosad Abu Fagr

I am Mosad Abu Fagr, a writer and activist from the tribes of the Sinai Peninsula in Egypt. I'm here today to talk to you about the murders and forced displacement that the Egyptian army has been committing in Sinai for over 8 consecutive years. Such crimes have been considered by Human Rights Watch as "grave violations and war crimes." Amnesty International has documented the Egyptian army bombing Sinai with internationally banned cluster bombs. These and other crimes have resulted in the entire destruction of the city of Rafah and all its villages, along with forcible displacement of its population of about 100,000 people by armed force. In addition, 11 out of 14 villages in the city of Sheikh Zuweid have been destroyed, as have 50 out of 70 schools, according to Ibrahim Abu Shaira, the city's representative in the current session of the Egyptian parliament. Moreover, according to Human Rights Watch, the Egyptian army has damaged 80% of the green areas east of Al-Arish area, in addition to 20,000 acres south of Al-Arish.

In conclusion, what I've given is just a tiny sample of the crimes that take place in Sinai and documented in the reports of international organizations. I'm here today to shine a light on these crimes, to draw attention to them, and to show the world maltreatment of the Bedouins, whose nation in the Sinai Peninsula has been under a land, air, and sea blockade since 2013.

Mrs. President, I conclude my speech by requesting that an international commission be formed to investigate the war crimes that have been committed, are being committed there now, and will be committed there in the future if the Egyptian army is allowed to continue targeting the region and its people.

Thanks

Mosad Abu Fagr