

Press Release – Tuesday, May 20, 2014

The Israeli Military brought in bulldozers on Monday, May 19, 2014 and proceeded to destroy between 1,500 and 2,000 mature, fruit-bearing apricot and apple trees and grape vines growing on Daher's Vineyard. There was no warning ahead of time, as is the usual case, so the Nassars could not appeal the situation through the courts prior to the wanton destruction that took place. In addition to the destruction of the trees, the terraced land on which the trees were planted was also destroyed, left in a state of rubble that cannot currently be re-planted. The Nassar family has created a Peace Project on the land called Tent of Nations (TON).

This 100-acre farm is located just six miles southwest of Bethlehem in the Occupied Territories of Palestine (the West Bank – Area C). This unwarranted, unannounced and illegal move was totally unexpected as the Nassar's latest case for proving ownership of the land has been in the Israeli Military/Civil Courts since February 2013. The Nassar family possesses papers showing purchase of the land by Daher Nassar in 1916 (during the days of the Ottoman Empire), and they have been attempting to have the land re-registered in the family name through the Israeli Military and civilian courts for over 20 years. A May 5, 2014 appeal to an additional warning placed on the land in late April declaring it as "State Land" is also still in the courts. According to the law, no demolition or evacuation is allowed once an appeal has been filed and until a verdict has been delivered.

For more information:

Bill Plitt

Executive Director

Friends of Tent of Nations North America

5621 N. 9<sup>th</sup> Road

Arlington, VA 22205

703-524-5657

[william@fotonna.org](mailto:william@fotonna.org)