

Mr Moshe Ya'alon, Minister of Defense  
Ministry of Defense  
37 Kaplan Street  
Hakiryia  
Tel Aviv 61909  
Israel

**PETITION**

February 2016

**Nabi Saleh – restrictions on freedom of expression and assembly and violation of other human rights**

Dear Minister,

According to information from the human rights organization Amnesty International, the inhabitants of Nabi Saleh, a village in the Westbank, are frequently exposed to violent repression by the Israeli Defense Forces.

Nabi Saleh is located in the occupied territories, about 20 kilometers northwest of Ramallah. The village comprises about 284 hectares of agricultural land which of most parts have been taken over by the Israeli settlement Halamish which was erected in 1977 and is an illegal settlement according to international law. In spite of court rulings against this action, the settlers have declared the spring a "tourist attraction" to which the inhabitants of Nabi Saleh no longer have access, although they need its water for agricultural purposes.

Since 2009, the inhabitants have carried out weekly protests against the military occupation of their land. The Israeli Defense Forces often react to the inhabitants' protests by using unnecessary and disproportionate force, targeting protesters with live ammunition, rubber bullets, stun grenades or teargas containers. These measures infringe UN-human rights conventions.

We call on you to:

- stop the arbitrary detentions of Palestinian activists;
- instruct the Israeli Defense Forces to stop the use of unnecessary and disproportionate violence against protesters;
- abolish Military Order No. 101 which restricts Palestinians to exert their right to freedom of expression and assembly and
- ensure that the discriminating practices which hinder the inhabitants of Nabi Saleh from accessing their water resources are brought to a halt.

Respectfully,

Name	Address	Signature

**AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL** German Section

Group 1180, Berlin-Brandenburg · [www.amnesty-1180.de](http://www.amnesty-1180.de)

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