

## **The International Labor Organization meets at the Al-Marsad**

press release

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The International Labor Organization (ILO) mission to investigate the conditions of workers in the occupied Arab territories (Palestine and the Syrian Golan) visited the Golan for its annual report on the conditions of Arab workers in the Israeli labor market and under occupation. The mission, headed by Mr. Frank Hagman, a senior international Labor organization official, met at the Al-Marsad with several Syrian workers and activists to discuss the conditions of Syrian workers in the occupied Golan.

Participants in the meeting briefed the ILO delegation on the severe impacts expected from the wind turbine project to be established on private agricultural lands of Syrian farmers, which, according to experts, is likely to lead to significant damage to apple and cherry crops, to agricultural tourism in general, and the expansion of the of three villages, Majdal Shams, Masada, and Buqatha, in addition to its environmental and health damages to the population. The participants also informed the ILO delegation about the popular, peaceful, and legal struggle that Syrians have been waging against the project for the past three years, as the ongoing defamation campaigns they are subjected to by a few local brokers and supporters of the project.

The meeting also discussed the fields of tourism and agriculture and discriminatory policies against the Syrian population while supporting illegal settlements. The settlers receive government support for developing tourism and agricultural investment in lands whose Syrian owners were forcibly displaced during the 1967 war. They get water in the quantities they want at reduced prices, while Syrian farmers get smaller amounts at higher prices.

The meeting with the ILO delegation discussed the exploitation of male and female workers in the local and Israeli labor market, focusing on the most prominent violations, including unfair working conditions, safety and health conditions, minimum wages, and equal wages between women and men, guaranteeing the right to rest Leisure time, reasonable limitation of working hours, periodic paid holidays as well as remuneration for official holidays, and everything that would ensure a decent living for them and their families.

Al-Marsad presented the legal services it provides in the field of labor rights by providing free legal advice to Syrian workers and representing them before the labor courts in all matters related to the violation of their rights as a result of exploitation, non-observance by employers of the minimum wage, non-payment of travel allowances, annual leave, sick leave, Holidays, and evasion of savings for the worker's benefit in the retirement fund.