



### **Terms of Reference**

**Researcher: Advocacy Report on Israeli Annexation Measures in Bethlehem**

**Position Title:**

Researcher: Advocacy Report on Annexation Measures in the Bethlehem Governorate

**Location:**

Remote

**Project Title:** *Advocacy for Endangered Areas in the Bethlehem Governorate*

**Duration of Consultancy:**

Five weeks

**Start Date:**

15 June

## **1. Background**

Following the events of October 7th, 2023, a dangerous escalation in Israel's long-standing agenda of annexing the West Bank marked, with severe impacts on the Bethlehem Governorate. Already facing record levels of human rights violations and illegal settlement expansion prior to October, the area is now witnessing intensified settler violence, land confiscation, and movement restrictions.

Key areas within the Bethlehem Governorate are of high agricultural, archaeological, and cultural value. These zones are experiencing rapid annexation, forced displacement, and systemic rights violations that threaten the sustainability of the Palestinian presence in the region. Communities of all backgrounds, including historically rooted Christian families, are increasingly impacted by these developments.

The Balasan Initiative for Human Rights (BIHR) seeks to produce a high-impact advocacy report that will document, analyze, and raise international awareness about these violations, using the target areas as urgent case studies.

## **2. Purpose of the Consultancy**

The purpose of this consultancy is to:

- Reflect the latest Israeli annexation policies and new escalations in the Bethlehem Governorate.
- Under BIHR's facilitation, conduct field research and data collection in the target areas.
- Document the impacts of annexation measures on local Palestinian communities.
- Apply a policy and legal analysis to the target areas.
- Produce a comprehensive advocacy report on recent annexation measures in the Bethlehem Governorate.

This report will serve as a foundational advocacy tool to inform stakeholders, support UN-level submissions, and galvanize international engagement to protect Palestinian land, identity, and presence.

## **3. Key Objectives**

- Document the annexation processes underway in key areas of Bethlehem, including the latest trends and escalations.
- Analyze the impacts on local Palestinian communities, including socio-economic and mobility restrictions.
- Provide legal and policy analysis in alignment with international law and human rights standards.
- Produce a professionally written advocacy report including visuals, testimonies, legal framing, and recommendations.

#### **4. Scope of Work**

Under the supervision of the BIHR Director, the consultant will:

- Conduct a desk review of existing literature, including BIHR's reports, and reports related to land confiscation and settlement expansion in Bethlehem.
- Undertake field visits as needed to collect testimonies from residents and local stakeholders in the target areas.
- Interview local experts, landowners, and community leaders to assess the significance of each area and the specific impacts.
- Compile and verify statistical and geospatial data.
- Draft a structured advocacy report with the outline agreed upon with BIHR.

#### **5. Deliverables**

- Work Plan
- Field Notes & Interview Summaries
- Draft Report
- Final Report

## **6. Required Qualifications**

- Advanced degree in International Law, Human Rights, Middle East Studies, or related field.
- Excellent research experience and demonstrated ability to produce human rights advocacy reports.
- Excellent understanding of the Palestinian context, legal and political frameworks; familiarity with international legal frameworks.
- Strong writing and editing skills in English; knowledge of Arabic is an asset.
- Ability to work independently and meet tight deadlines.

## **7. Reporting and Coordination**

The consultant will report to BIHR's Director. Regular check-ins will be scheduled to ensure progress and alignment with advocacy goals.

## **8. Application Requirements**

**Interested applicants must submit the following documents to [balasan.initiative@gmail.com](mailto:balasan.initiative@gmail.com) by 10 June, 2025:**

- CV highlighting relevant experience.
- Sample of previous written reports or publications
- Technical proposal, inclusive of a brief cover letter and outlining methodology and availability.
- Financial proposal in USD, VAT included (lump-sum rate or daily rate)