



Dear Vice-President and High Representative Mogherini,

You are no doubt aware of the imminent demolition of Khan Al-Ahmar, a Bedouin community in Palestine's Area C.

On behalf of the Delegation for relations with Palestine, we are writing to urge your immediate and decisive intervention with the Israeli authorities to prevent the execution of the 42 demolition orders issued to this beleaguered community on 5th March, and to express our strong support for any such intervention from your side.

It is inhuman to stand aside whilst this community, more than half of it children, and already living in precarious conditions, should be forced to demolish their own homes or submit to the demolitions of their homes, in a clear attempt to force them to relocate away from their current location in an area essential to preserve the contiguity of the Palestinian state, and also earmarked for illegal settlement expansion.

The forced relocation of this community would violate the Fourth Geneva Convention. Further, the forcible transfer of population is a crime against humanity under the Rome Statute. The EU needs to impress on the Israeli authorities that the Union is an essential pillar of the international order and champions and defends it, and it will not stand by whilst such grave violations of international law are carried out with impunity.

The Delegation has recently visited Khan Al-Ahmar whilst on mission to Palestine and met the community there. They are already living in precarious conditions and are paying out of pocket to preserve their homes and a school for their children. They have even sold their goats to buy time in court against the destruction of their homes, which their legal advisors and human rights activists supporting them know is a futile action without pressure from the international community.

The EU must hold Israel to the standards and values on which our Union built.

In this regard, the Delegation for relations with Palestine deplores the decision of the EU's Foreign Affairs Council to proceed with the preparation for the Association Council with Israel.

This Delegation is firmly of the view that the EU must not press onward with deepening relations whilst at the same time condemning settlements and demolitions. We must be coherent in our action and we must impress on Israel that we fully expect it to respect international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and Palestinian human rights, and cease its flagrant violations of both.

The Delegation extends its support to you in any such action.

We fully trust that you will defend the Khan al-Ahmar community decisively and we thank you in advance.

Yours sincerely,

Neoklis Sylikiotis, Chair of the Delegation for relations with Palestine

Marita Ulvskog, Vice-Chair of the Delegation for relations with Palestine

Margrete Auken, Vice-Chair of the Delegation for relations with Palestine

Benifei Brando, member of the Delegation for relations with Palestine

Vallina De La Noval Angela Rosa, member of the Delegation for relations with Palestine

Vajgl Ivo, member of the Delegation for relations with Palestine