State of Palestine
Strategic Communications & Media
Office of the Prime Minister
For Immediate Release
July 27, 2016

PM Hamdallah Condemns Israel's Systematic Uprooting of Palestinians

Ramallah – Today, Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah strongly condemned Israel's house demolitions in the village of Qalandiya.

"The purpose of Israel's demolitions is to uproot the largest number of Palestinians in order to make room for more illegal settlements," Hamdallah said. "This is against international law and against every standard of human decency."

Eleven Palestinian homes were razed to the ground overnight, because Israeli authorities alleged that the owners didn't obtain building permits. Securing a building permit from Israel is almost impossible for Palestinians living in Area C, according to OCHA; only 33 building permits have been approved out of 2,020 applications submitted between 2010 and 2014.

"When the bulldozers came, we told the Israelis that we had papers to prove we were in the application process, but they didn't care," said Mahmoud Awadallah, who witnessed the demolition of his brother's house.

"Netanyahu's talk about peace is hollow as long as he keeps destroying Palestinian homes and continues the ethnic cleansing of Palestinians in East Jerusalem and Area C," said Jamal Dajani, Director of Strategic Communications & Media for the Prime Minister.

This year alone, Netanyahu's government has flattened 660 houses and other structures in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, leaving almost a thousand Palestinian homeless, many of them children.