Foreign & Commonwealth Office

FCO Press Release: UK Minister for the Middle East statement on settlements in the West Bank

British Minister for the Middle East Tobias Ellwood expressed his extreme concern over Israeli plans for further expansion of illegal settlements in the West Bank.

Foreign Office minister, Tobias Ellwood, said:

> *"I'm extremely concerned that the Knesset has passed the first reading of a bill which would expropriate privately owned Palestinian land and pave the way for a significant further expansion of settlements in the West Bank. This would be illegal under international law, and once again calls into question the Israeli government's commitment to a two state solution.*
>
> *"I am also concerned that settlement planning around Jerusalem has continued and increased in pace, with 770 units in Gilo receiving final approval on 7 December."*

END

All the latest news is available on our website at:
https://www.gov.uk/government/world/the-occupied-palestinian-territories

Follow us on Facebook for the latest news UKinJerusalem and Twitter @ukinjerusalem