Foreign & Commonwealth Office

FCO Press Release: British Minister for the Middle East statement on settlement units in East Jerusalem

British Minister for the Middle East Tobias Ellwood condemned the Israeli authorities' decision for a further 323 settlement units in East Jerusalem.

Foreign Office minister, Tobias Ellwood, said:

> *"The UK condemns the Israeli authorities' decision to issue tenders for a further 323 settlement units in East Jerusalem. This follows recent development of plans for 770 new units in the Jerusalem suburbs.*
>
> *"As set out in the Quartet report, settlement activity is counterproductive and undermines progress towards a two-state solution. This announcement comes on the back of an alarming increase in demolitions of Palestinian houses throughout 2016, including in East Jerusalem.*
>
> *"These steps are the latest examples of what seems to be an acceleration of a systematic policy of illegal settlement expansion and demolition of Palestinian property. Along with our international partners, we call on Israel to halt all demolitions and settlement activities."*

END

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