Press Release
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EU diplomats visit the community of Susiya in the occupied West Bank facing threat of demolition

A group of EU diplomats based in Jerusalem and Ramallah visited today the Palestinian community of Susya in the South Hebron Hills.

For over a decade, the residents of Susya have lived under the threat of demolition and evacuation. All attempts to obtain building permits have been rejected by Israel.

The EU diplomats met with community leaders, the lawyer of the community and humanitarian organizations that deliver aid to the community.

On 21 November 2017 the Israeli authorities stated they intend to demolish one-fifth of the village within 15 days. As winter arrives, an imminent demolition will leave up to 100 people, half of them children, without shelter.

In the Foreign Affairs Council Conclusions on the Middle East Peace Process of July 2015 the EU called on Israeli authorities to halt plans for forced transfer of population and demolition of Palestinian housing and infrastructure in Susya. Furthermore, in the Council Conclusions on the Middle East Peace Process of January 2016, the EU reiterated its strong opposition to Israel's settlement policy and actions taken in this context, such as building the separation barrier beyond the 1967 line, demolitions and confiscation - including of EU funded projects - evictions, forced transfers including of Bedouins, illegal outposts and restrictions of movement and access. Moreover, the Council Conclusions stressed the need for a fundamental change of policy by Israel with regard to the occupied Palestinian territory, particularly in Area C, which will significantly increase economic opportunities, empower Palestinian institutions and enhance stability and security for both Israelis and Palestinians.

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