Press Release
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European Union Heads of Mission visit Nablus

EU Heads of Mission in Jerusalem and Ramallah yesterday visited Nablus governorate in the northern West Bank. They met with the Governor and the Mayor of the city. The group of more than twenty European Diplomats also visited Balata Refugee Camp and met with UNRWA Officials. At Burin village, the diplomats were briefed by the local community on EU development and humanitarian projects and on the exposure of the community to Israeli settlers.

During their visit, the European diplomats met with Deputy Fatah Chairman Mahmoud Al-Aloul at Khan Al Wakalah in the old city of Nablus. Mr Al-Aloul briefed the group on recent political developments as well as the current efforts directed at the internal Palestinian reconciliation.

The EU Heads of Mission also met with UNRWA officials at Balata Refugee Camp outside Nablus, where they were briefed at an UNRWA school and clinic. Balata Refugee camp is today the largest camp in the West Bank and home to 27,000 people.

The European diplomats concluded their visit at Burin village, a Palestinian village near Nablus that is regularly exposed to Israeli settler violence. The Head of Burin Local Council briefed the diplomats on recent events. Partners briefed the group on humanitarian and developmental efforts to support Palestinian local residents of Burin.

The EU and its Member States are providing significant support for Palestinians in partnership with the Palestinian Authority, international organizations (notably UNRWA) and civil society. The only way to provide a credible political horizon, and relieve the stress under which these Palestinian communities are living, is to work on the resumption of a peace process with the objective of a two state solution, ending the occupation that began in 1967, and allowing Palestinians and Israelis to live side by side in peace and security.

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