Jerusalem
10 May 2018

Local EU statement on the demolitions by Israeli authorities of EU funded structures in Masafer Yatta (Area C)

The European Union Representative and the EU Heads of Mission in Jerusalem and Ramallah issue the following statement:

The EU missions in Jerusalem and Ramallah express strong concern about the demolition and seizure by the Israeli authorities of several Palestinian-owned structures in four Palestinian communities located in the Masafer Yatta area in Area C of the occupied West Bank, on 2 May 2018. Several of these structures were funded by the EU and EU Member States.

More than 40 Palestinian residents of these communities have lost their home. The seizure of solar energy units, as well as water filtration systems, deprives them of access to energy and water.

In line with its long standing position on this issue, and reiterating its strong opposition to Israel's settlement policy and actions taken in this context, including demolitions and confiscations, evictions and forced transfers, which all threaten the two-state solution, the EU calls upon the Israeli authorities to halt demolitions of Palestinian houses and property, in accordance with its obligations as an occupying power under international humanitarian law, and to cease the policy of settlement construction and expansion, of designating land for exclusive Israeli use and of denying Palestinian development.

The EU missions in Jerusalem and Ramallah call on the Israeli authorities to rebuild the structures in the same place, and return the seized items to the communities.

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