EU Local Statement on the situation in Silwan in East Jerusalem

29.05.2026 Jerusalem Press and information team - Office of the European Union Representative (West Bank and Gaza Strip, UNRWA)

The European Union Representative issues the following statement in agreement with the EU Heads of Mission in Jerusalem and Ramallah.

The situation for Palestinians in East Jerusalem remains dire. In particular the Silwan area has witnessed a dramatic escalation of forced evictions and demolitions.

In the neighbourhoods of Batan al Hawa and Bustan, more than 50 families equalling some 300 people have been evicted from their homes in the past 18 months. Almost 200 homes are facing imminent eviction or demolition in these two neighbourhoods alone.

The EU reiterates its strong opposition to Israel's settlement policy and activities, including in and around East Jerusalem which are illegal under international law. Israeli domestic laws do not exempt Israel from meeting its obligations to administer the occupied territory in a manner that provides for and protects the local population.

Unilateral actions taken in that context, such as forced transfers, evictions, demolitions and confiscations of homes will only escalate an already tense environment and lead to further human suffering.

We call on the relevant Israeli authorities to put an end to these practices and fully comply with its obligations under international law.

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