



Joint press statement of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Didier Reynders and the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Assistance Alexander De Croo, urging Israel not to demolish Khan El-Ahmar

Deputy Prime Ministers Didier Reynders and Alexander De Croo urge Israel not to demolish Khan El-Ahmar.

Deputy Prime Ministers Alexander De Croo and Didier Reynders have been following with great concern the developments in the Bedouin community of Khan al-Ahmar. Like the EU High Representative Federica Mogherini and other European countries, they urge the Israeli authorities not to proceed with the demolition of this community, which would lead to the forced displacement of its inhabitants. Much of the infrastructure of this Palestinian community was financed by the EU and its Member States, including Belgium. Furthermore, the Khan al-Ahmar school also serves four other communities in the area.

Deputy Prime Ministers Alexander De Croo and Didier Reynders point out that the destruction of infrastructure and housing in the West Bank, an occupied Palestinian territory, is contrary to international humanitarian law. The destructions violate the Fourth Geneva Convention, in that they lead to evacuations and forced displacement of populations, as well as resolutions of the United Nations Security Council. In addition, Khan al-Ahmar is located in an area of strategic importance for the prospect of a contiguous and viable Palestinian State.

Deputy Prime Ministers Alexander De Croo and Didier Reynders will continue their efforts to preserve the two-States solution, with Jerusalem as their capital, in order to achieve a just and lasting peace. They will work to that end in close collaboration with HRVP Federica Mogherini, their European partners and the international community.