



Recommendations to the Foreign Affairs Council, February 2012.

We welcome the statement from the UN Special Rapporteur on 20 February on the situation in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967. The UN's recent consolidated response refers to a protection crisis with serious and negative humanitarian consequences brought about by lack of respect for international law in OPT¹. In light of this, UN OHCHR OPT and EAPPI met the European Council's Working Party on "Mashraq/Maghreb" (MaMa) on Thursday, 16th February, and made the following key recommendations after presenting key challenges and responses on the ground:

- Withdraw the Golani from Hebron;
- Halt child arrest and detention (and ban solitary confinement);
- Act on impunity and early warning - hold Israel accountable to ensure it no longer arms settlers or supports any settler movement strategy for forced displacement of Palestinian populations in OPT;
- Uphold the rule of law by holding all settlers accountable for violations in International Human Rights Law and International Humanitarian Law, denying access to the EU to settlers known to be breaching IHRL and IHL, clearly labeling goods exported from settlements to the EU;
- Stop demolitions of Palestinian infrastructures in Area C.

The situation has worsened in the subsequent days since the meeting with MaMa. The Golani have told EAPPI and other human rights defender organizations monitoring and reporting on human rights violations from within vulnerable communities that they will be arrested if they continue to take photo or other footage of the Golani within residential communities in Hebron. Children are still in solitary confinement despite representations to the Government of Israel, by amongst others, the UN Special Rapporteurs, and child arrest and detention has seen a significant rise since last September along with settler violence, demolitions and movement restrictions.

We therefore call on EU Member States, the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice President, with the support of the Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response, and the EU Special Representative for the Middle East peace process, in their statement issued following next week's Foreign Affairs Council, to urge the Government of Israel:

- To withdraw its Golani Brigade forces from Hebron; and to
- Halt child arrest and detention, and ban solitary confinement of children.

21st February 2012.

¹ http://www.ochaopt.org/documents/ochaopt_cap_2012_full_document_english.pdf

About Us

The UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights works for the promotion and protection of all human rights for all people, to help empower people to realize their rights, and to assist those responsible for upholding such rights in ensuring they are implemented. UN OHCHR chairs the UN protection clusters in OPT. The UN has committed to integrating protection across all humanitarian responses in OPT. <http://www.ohchr.org/en/countries/menaregion/pages/psindex.aspx>

Human Rights Observers with the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme for Palestine and Israel live and work with populations under occupation, monitoring and reporting on abuses in international humanitarian and human rights law. EAPPI partners with the UN and Israeli and Palestinian organizations. <http://www.eappi.org>

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