

confederación sindical de comisiones obreras

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Secretaría General

Fernández de la Hoz, 12. 28010 Madrid. Tel.: 917028011 / 917028159 | sgeneral@ccoo.es

Jean-Claude Juncker, president of the European Comission.

Federica Mogherini, High representative of the Union for Foreing Affairs and Security Policy /Vice-Presidente of the Commission

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We are aware that you are informed of the dramatic situation in which the inhabitants of Khan Al Ahmar (Palestine) find themselves, due to the latent threat of Israel to demolish their town. All this is part of the Israeli expansion plan known as Area E1.

As you know, this area of the West Bank is of enormous strategic importance. The demolition of the village and the displacement of its inhabitants violate international law and Amnesty International has described it as a war crime. Several states, including Spain, have requested that this demolition be stopped but the threat of compliance remains and has intensified in recent days.

Khan al Ahmar is today a benchmark but it is not the only village threatened. All the villages in the area and the Jordan Valley are in the same situation. Its inhabitants are subject to restrictions and violations of Human Rights. It is a new despoilment of Palestinian territory that comes in addition to the continuous Israeli colonisation, the construction of the wall and the systematic occupation of lands.

Khan Al Ahmar endures thanks to the peaceful resistance exercised by the Palestinian population, media coverage and international pressure. The demolition order can be resumed at any time. Therefore, Palestinian society and the community of Khan Al Ahmar make an explicit and urgent call to prevent their being displaced and their village demolished.

Israel will continue to expand the settlements unless the international community takes meaningful action. The Irish Senate recently voted in favor of a bill that bans the importation of products from the Palestinian territories occupied by Israel, paving the way for the country to become the first EU nation to enforce that ban.

We believe that the EU must follow its example and support a total ban on trade with illegal settlements, including both goods and services, as well as apply decisive political, diplomatic and economic pressure on the Israeli authorities to stop the demolition of Khan Al-Ahmar. At the same time, we think that the EU must defend human rights, including those of the Palestinian people.

Unai Sordo Calvo General Secretary