

Stellungnahme von EU-Botschaftern zur aktuellen Entwicklung in Israel und in den palästinensischen Gebieten

Die folgende gemeinsame Erklärung wurde am 20. Dezember 2011 abgegeben von den Botschaftern Miguel Berger (Deutschland), Gérard Araud (Frankreich), Mark Lyall Grant (Großbritannien) und José Filipe Moraes Cabral (Portugal). Vorausgegangen war die Anhörung von Oscar Fernandez-Taranco im UN-Sicherheitsrat zur Lage in Israel und in den palästinensischen Gebieten. Der argentinische Diplomat Fernandez-Taranco wurde am 01.07.2009 von UN-Generalsekretär Ban ki-Moon zum „Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs“ mit Sonderaufgaben für die beiden Amerikas, Asien, den pazifischen Raum, Europa und den Nahen Osten ernannt. Dort obliegt ihm die Leitung der „Decolonisation Unit“ und der Abteilung für palästinensische Rechte.

We have just heard a briefing from Mr. [Oscar] Fernandez-Taranco about the situation in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian territories. One of the themes that emerged was the severely damaging effect that increased settlement construction and settler violence is having on the ground and on the prospects of a return to negotiations. The United Kingdom, France, Germany and Portugal are dismayed by these wholly negative developments.

Israel's continuing announcements to accelerate the construction of settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, including East Jerusalem, send a devastating message. We call on the Israeli government to reverse these steps. The viability of the Palestinian state that we want to see and the two-state solution that is essential for Israel's long-term security are threatened by the systematic and deliberate expansion of settlements. Settlements are illegal under international law and represent a serious blow to the Quartet's efforts to restart peace negotiations. All settlement activity, including in East Jerusalem, must cease immediately.

We condemn the disturbing escalation of violence by settlers including the burning of the Nebi Akasha mosque in West Jerusalem

and the Burqa mosque in the West Bank. It is clear that these deliberately provocative attacks on places of worship were designed to aggravate tensions. We welcome the condemnation of these attacks by Israeli leaders, and call on the Israeli government to fulfill its commitment to bring the perpetrators to justice and to put an end to impunity. The package of measures announced by Prime Minister [Benjamin] Netanyahu in response to settler violence goes in the right direction. We look forward to seeing the results of these measures, and to seeing those behind the violence punished to the full extent of the law.

A bold demonstration of political will and leadership is needed from both sides to break the current impasse. We call the parties to present as soon as possible to the Quartet comprehensive proposals on territory and security, following its statement of September 23rd. We look to both parties to return to negotiations as soon as possible.

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We continue to be seriously concerned about the current stalemate in the Middle East Peace Process. Our primary goal remains a just and lasting resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. We are committed to working to turn this ambition into reality: the creation of a sovereign, independent, democratic, contiguous and viable Palestinian State living in peace and security side by side with Israel.

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