



Press Release

5 February 2021

Canberra, Australia

Israeli demolition of Palestinian community Khirbet Humsa al-Foqa in the northern Jordan Valley

Israel's escalated illegal policies and practices continued to undermine the role of international law and violate UN resolutions. The demolition of Khirbet Humsa al-Foqa in the northern Jordan Valley, which occurred on the 3 February 2021, demonstrates Israel's continued and systematic expansionist policies.

The demolition of Khirbet Humsa al-Foqa is the second in the past 48 hours and the third time in less than three months. Thirteen residential structures, home to 11 Palestinian families consisting of 74 people, including 41 children, and five structures and tents for livestock were dismantled and confiscated. This act of aggression is a blatant violation of the 4th Geneva Convention, and constitutes as a war crime by Israel against the Palestinian people.

This latest act of impunity by Israel has been condemned by both the Palestinian leadership and the international community alike. Notably, Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh led an inspection visit to the site, accompanied by a host of European Union diplomats. The demolition was described by Shtayyeh as "organised state terrorism which involved ethnic cleaning of the indigenous population".

This demolition is yet another blow to the Palestinian people in their plight for self-determination and statehood. It constitutes a serious breach of international law and violation of signed humanitarian treaties and agreements.

We call on the Australian and New Zealand governments, Parliamentarians and Civil Societies to condemn such brutal policies of house demolition and put serious pressure on Israel to abide by International Law and UN resolutions in this regard.

