

From: [BCG Jerusalem]
Sent: 19 February 2016 11:38
To: [Minister Ellwood's office]

Subject: THE OPTS THIS WEEK OFFICIAL_SENSITIVE

Demolitions

1. Israeli bulldozers demolished a number of Palestinian structures built without Israeli-issued construction permits in the northern West Bank district of Nablus; the structures demolished included 20 dwellings making up the Ein al-Rushrash community, displacing about 85 Palestinians. The Israeli authorities issued home demolition orders for 11 Palestinian Bedouin homes and a mosque in the Jabal al-Baba community in the E1 corridor east of Jerusalem. The Israeli authorities also levelled agricultural and private Palestinian land in the outskirts of al-Issawiya, on the outskirts of Jerusalem.
2. UN Humanitarian Coordinator Robert Piper issued a statement calling the number of demolitions in 2016 "alarming" and calling for an immediate halt. He highlighted that the number of Palestinians displaced in 2016 is already equivalent to over half of the total number displaced in all of 2015.

[BCG Jerusalem]

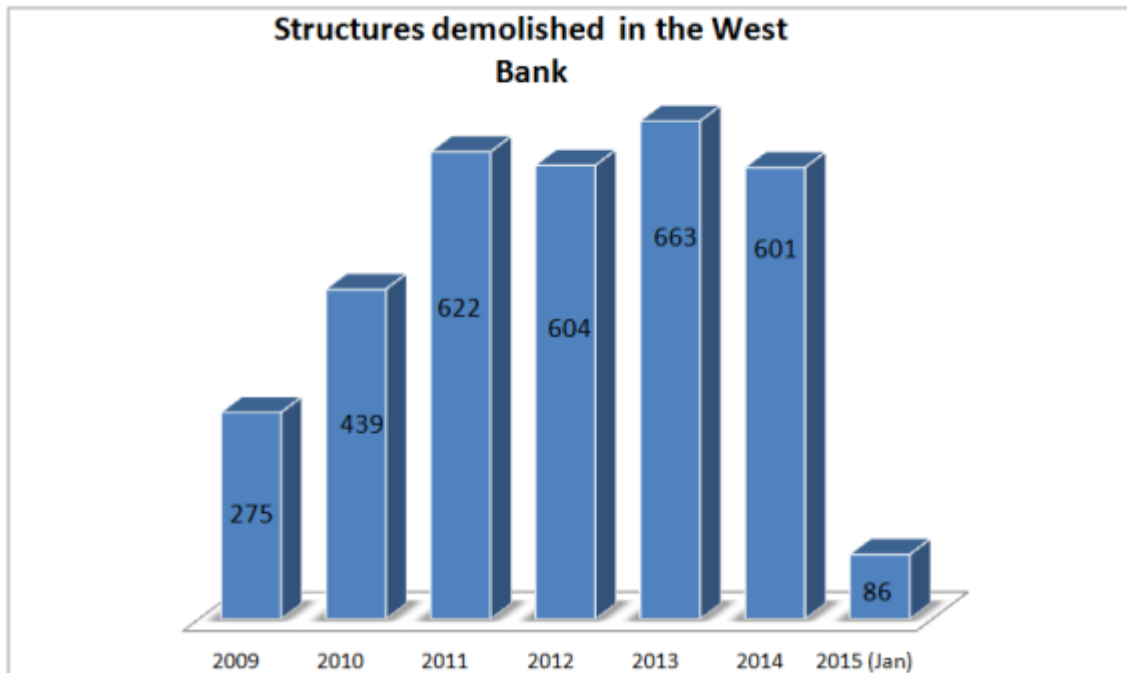
From: [DFID]
Sent: 12 February 2015 11:01
To: [FCO]

Subject: Demolitions and displacement in 2014

[DFID]

To complement [BCG Jerusalem]'s email on January demolitions, some useful figures on demolitions in 2014:

- ☐ 600 Palestinian structures demolished in 2014 – slightly down from 663 in 2013, but similar to the last 4 years (see OCHA graph below).
- ☐ 117 of the 600 structures demolished were funded by international donors.
- ☐ 1,215 people displaced as a result of these demolitions – the highest number in the last 6 years.
- ☐ 65 structures demolished and 246 people displaced in the 46 Bedouin communities facing forcible transfer due to the "Nuweimeh Plan".
- ☐ Demolitions were targeted at specific communities – 53% of all the structures demolished in Area C (and 72% of people displaced) occurred in 10 communities.



More detail from the Civil Society Working Group on Demolitions below and attached.

From: [AIDA advocacy]

Sent: 11 February 2015 19:03

To: [Near East Dept, FCO]

Subject: demolition and displacement updates for 2014 and 2015

Dear all:

Please find attached the demolition and displacement analysis for 2014 and for the first month of 2015.

Highlights for 2014 include:

There is a 10 percent **decrease** in demolitions and a 10 percent **increase** in people displaced by demolition when comparing January – December 2013 to January –December 2014 (663 demolitions as compared to 600 demolitions and 1,103 displaced as compared to 1,215 displaced.)

In the 46 Bedouin communities facing forced transfer due to the “Nuweimeh Plan,” there were 65 structures demolished in 2014, resulting in the displacement of 246 people. 19 of the structures demolished were funded by international donors.

53 percent of all the structures demolished in Area C were demolished in 10 communities (262 out of 493.) The people displaced as a result of the demolitions in these 10 communities account for 72 percent of all the displacement in Area C (696 people out of 969 people.) Of the 262 structures demolished in these communities, 73 were funded by international donors, accounting for 62 percent of all of the donor funded structures demolished in 2014 (73 out of 117.)

It should be noted that some, but not all, of these communities are within the “Nuweimeh Plan,” showing a need to focus on halting demolition and forced transfer in all of Area C, not just in those communities identified at risk of relocation.

Please note, AIDA will continue circulating demolition and displacement analysis on a monthly basis. For now we have suspended monthly meetings of the CSAWGD due to resources and

competing priorities. We will look at holding ad-hoc meetings throughout 2015 as issues requiring policy and advocacy coordination arise. Ziyaad and I thank all who contributed to the joint work of that group in 2014.

All the best,

[AIDA advocacy]

From: [BCG Jerusalem]
Sent: 17 April 2015 15:01
To: [BCG Jerusalem]

Subject: OPTs: Plans advancing for transfer of Bedouin to Al Jabal

Alastair

1. **On 31 March, Felipe Sanchez, Director of UNRWA Operations in the West Bank, and Nicola Harrison, UNRWA Operations Support Officer, briefed you on the latest developments at Al Jabal Bedouin transfer site.** Yesterday, [BCG Jerusalem, DfiD, BE Tel Aviv] visited Al Jabal and spoke to representatives of the Abu Nwar community at risk of displacement. Email agreed with BE Tel Aviv.

What is happening

2. **The Israeli Government is advancing plans to transfer 7000 Bedouin communities from Area C into three 'townships': Al Jabal, Fasayil and Nuweima** (DipTel 1500686). The Nuweima transfer site is still under legal and administrative review but the Al-Jabal extension site has already been approved and finalised by the Israeli authorities.
3. **The Israeli authorities have recently begun groundworks for the extension of the Al Jabal Bedouin transfer site, near Abu Dis, East of Jerusalem.** During our visit we saw more than 10 heavy machinery diggers at work. The site is next to the largest refuse dump in the West Bank. The Israeli authorities have demolished existing homes at the site and issued demolition orders on other structures. UNRWA and NRC told us that this land levelling and recent demolitions are an indication that the Israeli authorities are intent on implementing at least part of its Bedouin transfer plan in the near future.
4. **The extension of Al Jabal is intended to house approximately 50 Bedouin families who will be moved from E1 land, designated for Israeli settlement construction.** The Israeli Civil Administration (ICA) has not yet confirmed which Bedouin communities will be targeted for transfer to the new site. But evidence indicates that two communities from Abu Nwar (just south of Ma'ale Adumim) and one from Jabal a Baba (Azzariya) may be targeted. The ICA has entered the Abu Nwar community several times in recent weeks and photographed the site extensively. The land of Abu Nwar is known to the ICA as 'G block' and makes up the southern part of the E1 settlement construction project, for which the outline plan was approved by the Israeli Higher Planning Council in 1999. The detailed plan is currently 'under preparation'. The 'G Block' plan constitutes 389 dunums with 1500 settlement housing units.
5. **All three of these Bedouin communities have expressed their refusal to be transferred.** As refugees from 1948, they have asked to return to their ancestral lands in the Negev and if not, be allowed to stay where they are with proper planning, including electricity and water.

Previous forced transfers to Al Jabal

6. **There have been previous 'waves' of forcible transfer of Bedouin to Al Jabal.** In the late 1990s the Israeli authorities forcibly removed 150 Bedouin families from an area which has

since become part of Ma'ale Adumim settlement. The Bedouin were relocated to a restricted space in an urban environment, Al Jabal, next to Abu Dis, where a refuse site was subsequently built. A detailed 2012 UNRWA study found that the communities at Al Jabal were now "socially and economically unviable". A community representative told us that he used to own more than 150 animals and that his wife used to be able to work; after being forcibly transferred, he now doesn't have space for his children or any animals and his wife can't work. Members of other Bedouin communities fear a repeat of this outcome.

Impact

7. **As described in DipTel 1500686, the transfer of Bedouin to Al Jabal would force an urbanised lifestyle on these pastoral communities.** There would also be additional practical implications regarding this new Al-Jabal site:
 - i. The detrimental health implications of residing next to the municipal garbage dump with the associated environmental hazards;
 - ii. The devastating impact the transfer would have on the Bedouin herding economy, lifestyle and women's freedom of movement;
 - iii. The heightening of internal Palestinian community friction as residents of Abu Dis claim ownership of the land and object to its use for this purpose.

The new construction in Al Jabal has intensified the psychological distress for these communities, with UNRWA mental health staff reporting a rise in consultation requests from residents of Jabal al Baba and Abu Nwar communities.

8. **The UN Secretary General has said that the relocation of Bedouin would amount to a "mass forcible transfer" by an occupying power, prohibited by the Fourth Geneva Convention.** Moving Bedouin from E1 also paves the way for settlement building in the area, which would make a two state solution impossible.

UK Action

9. **Our visit to Abu Nwar community was one of a series of visits that we have made to vulnerable Bedouin communities over the last few months** to highlight UK support to these Bedouin communities, through NRC, UNRWA, Oxfam and Bimkom. We will continue to visit these communities and highlight UK support.

[BCG Jerusalem/BE Tel Aviv]

From: [UKREP Brussels]

Sent: 20 May 2016 12:32

To: [Near East, Dept]

Subject: EU Statement on demolitions

[Near East, Dept]

See EU Statement by the Spokesperson on the latest demolitions in the West Bank -

http://eeas.europa.eu/statements-eeas/2016/160519_04_en.htm

The regrettable trend of confiscations and demolitions since the beginning of the year, including of EU-funded humanitarian assistance, was confirmed once again this week by demolitions of temporary shelters in Jabal al-Baba, a Bedouin community in the so-called E1 area. Bedouin communities in the central West Bank have faced repeated confiscations and demolitions in recent years, as part of the plans which have put them in grave humanitarian need and risk ending in forced transfers.

The EU is strongly opposed to Israel's settlement policy and actions taken in this context, including demolitions and confiscations, building the separation barrier beyond the 1967 line, evictions and forced transfers. Such developments in the so-called E1 area call into question Israel's commitment towards the two-state solution.

[UKREP Brussels]

From: [Comms Team, Near East Dept]

Sent: 19 May 2016 13:47

To: [BE Tel Aviv]

Subject: Named Day PQs 37475 and 37391 - Demolitions at Jabal Al-Baba; I would be grateful for your comments by 9:00am Friday 20 May

[BE Tel Aviv]

Please find two PQs from Richard Burden MP to SoS for Mr Ellwood to answer. Grateful for your comments on the draft response covering both questions.

PQ 37475: what representations he has made to Israeli authorities about reports of further demolitions of EU-funded structures in Jabal al Baba.

PQ 37391: what representations he has made to his Israeli counterpart on the demolition of Bedouin homes at Jabal Al-Baba in East Jerusalem.

Draft response PQs 37475 and 37391: We condemn the demolition of Bedouin homes at Jabal Al-Baba, which is a particularly vulnerable community in East Jerusalem. We have not specifically raised the issue, but we ~~of the recent demolitions at Jabal Al-Baba at either Ministerial or official level. The Government~~ remains extremely concerned at the large increase in demolitions in the OPTs since the start of 2016, compared to the monthly average in 2015. Our Embassy in Tel Aviv continues to regularly raise our concern over demolitions with the Israeli authorities, most recently on 15 May. We call on Israel provide a legal route for Palestinians to obtain building permits. ~~As a result of these representations, the UK's humanitarian and legal concerns on demolitions have been made clear.~~

Background/ Context: On Monday 16 May some 90 Palestinian Bedouins, the majority of them children, were left homeless on Monday when Israeli forces disassembled EU-donated mobile homes without giving prior notice in the Jabal al-Baba neighbourhood in the outskirts of the village of al-Eizariya east of Jerusalem. [Redacted], a representative of Jabal al-Baba, told Ma'an (Palestinian news agency) that Israeli forces began dismantling eight mobile homes after Israeli forces and Israeli Civil Administration officers stormed the area at 5 a.m., evacuating the families living inside them. On Wednesday 18 May The UN Coordinator for Humanitarian Aid and Development Activities for the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT), Robert Piper, condemned the demolition and confiscation of donor-funded humanitarian assistance by the Israeli authorities in the Palestinian community of Jabal al Baba.

This is a Named Day PQ so grateful for your comments by 9:00am tomorrow, Friday 20 May.

Many thanks

[Comms Team, Near East Dept]

From: [Near East Dept, FCO]

Sent: 19 May 2016 16:45

To: [Comms Team, Near East Dept]

Subject: RE: PQ 37484: Demolitions at Jabal al Baba (EU focused); I would be grateful for your comments by 9:00am Friday 20 May

Thanks [BE Tel Aviv]

I've made a few updates to the background – the Palestinian press initially reported that 90 people were affected, but the UN later confirmed that it was 49 people.

[Near East Dept, FCO]

From: [Comms Team, FCO]

Sent: 19 May 2016 14:11

To: [Near East Dept, FCO]

Subject: PQ 37484: Demolitions at Jabal al Baba (EU focused); I would be grateful for your comments by 9:00am Friday 20 May

[Near East Dept, FCO]

Please see below PQ from Richard Burden MP to SoS for Mr Ellwood to answer. Grateful for your comments on the following draft response to PQ about recent demolitions:

PQ 37484: what discussions he has had with his counterparts in other EU countries and the EU Commission on the demolition of EU-funded structures by Israeli authorities in Jabal al Baba on 16 May 2016; and what steps he plans to take (a) independently and (b) with those counterparts to ensure any further such demolitions planned are halted.

Draft response: The UK and the EU continue to raise concerns about demolitions with the Government of Israel and make it clear that demolitions are contrary to international humanitarian law in all but the most exceptional cases. Within the EU, we are considering how to respond to the demolition and confiscation of EU-funded structures.

Background/ context: On 16 May, the Israeli authorities demolished seven homes in the Jabal al Baba neighbourhood in E1 and confiscated materials for three other ones. Nine Palestine refugee families, comprising 49 members were left without shelter as a result, 22 of them children. The materials were part of a humanitarian aid package for vulnerable Palestinian Bedouin families, provided by the UN's Humanitarian Pooled Fund earlier this year. On Wednesday 18 May The UN Coordinator for Humanitarian Aid and Development Activities for the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT), Robert Piper, condemned the demolition and confiscation of donor-funded humanitarian assistance by the Israeli authorities in the Palestinian community of Jabal al Baba.

The Foreign Secretary has agreed with our recommendation to step up lobbying and public comment, but in collaboration with E3/US. He also believed we should consider stronger EU response to demolition of EU-funded structures but not have the UK out in front.

This is a named day PQ, so would be **grateful for your comments by 9:00am tomorrow (Friday).**

Many thanks

[Comms Team, FCO]

From: [Near East Dept, FCO]

Sent: 17 May 2016 12:10

To: BCG Jerusalem/BE Tel Aviv]

Subject: RE: Home demolitions at Jabal Baba

[BCG Jerusalem/BE Tel Aviv]

Thanks for your replies.

[BCG Jerusalem] – it would be very useful if you could check with EU colleagues about whether they are planning statement.

[BE Washington] – do you know if the US are planning to comment on this?

[Near East Dept, FCO]

From: [BCG Jerusalem]
Sent: 17 May 2016 09:12
To: [BE Tel Aviv]

Subject: RE: Home demolitions at Jabal Baba

[BCG Jerusalem/BE Tel Aviv]

We would support a public statement on this. It's a particularly vulnerable community within E1. BCG has previously supported the community through small amounts of BPB funding last year. Some of the Engagement Team are currently visiting the community this morning (at the community's urgent request), so we should have photos that we can use to accompany a public statement on our social media.

I can check with EU colleagues here about whether they're planning a statement, if useful?

Also cc'ing DfID colleagues for info.

[BE Washington] – do we know whether any of the EU structures were ECHO-funded? i.e. could any UK funding be attributed?

[BCG Jerusalem]

From: [BE Tel Aviv]
Sent: 17 May 2016 11:02
To: [BCG Jerusalem/BE Tel Aviv]

Subject: RE: Home demolitions at Jabal Baba

[Near East Dept, FCO]

We have not raised these specific demolitions, but as you will have seen – David raised strong concerns on demolitions with the Acting NSA yesterday.

There are benefits and downsides to a public statement. On the one hand, it would be good for Ministers to publicly stress our concern (with the main hook being the 2016 total of demolitions already surpassing 2015), and I presume a statement would be welcomed by a Palestinian audience. On the other hand, the rate of demolitions does seem to have declined from its Feb/Mar peak, and returning political attention to the issue risks provoking Israeli domestic/settler pressure to further 'enforce the law against illegal Palestinian construction' and prompting further demolitions. Do correct me if I'm wrong, but I've not seen specific comments from others (e.g. EU, FR, DE) – perhaps for this reason.

[BE Tel Aviv]

From: [BCG Jerusalem]
Sent: 17 May 2016 08:29
To: [BCG Jerusalem/BE Tel Aviv]
Subject: RE: Home demolitions at Jabal Baba

[Near East Dept, FCO]
Just worth noting that PM Hamdallah raised these demolitions with HMCG yesterday. I'll record the meeting fully today.

[BCG Jerusalem]

From: [Near East Dept, FCO]
Sent: 16 May 2016 18:08
To: [BCG Jerusalem/BE Tel Aviv]
Subject: FW: Home demolitions at Jabal Baba

[BCG Jerusalem/BE Tel Aviv]

Please see the email from CAABU to Rosie below.

Are we planning on raising these specific demolitions with the Israeli authorities? If not, I will use our standard lines on our opposition to demolitions and our regular discussions with Israel about demolitions in the response.

Rosie has also asked for advice on whether we/Ministers should comment publically. Grateful for your views.

Thanks,

[Near East Dept, FCO]

From: [Near East Dept, FCO]
Sent: 17 May 2016 17:48
To: [Near East Dept, FCO]

Subject: FW: Home demolitions at Jabal Baba - possible statement

[Near East Dept, FCO]

Yesterday Israel demolished 10 shelters in the Palestinian Bedouin community of Jabal al Baba, resulting in the displacement of 9 families, comprising 53 people, including 26 children. BCG's assessment is that this is a particularly vulnerable community, it's a sizable number of demolitions in one go, and the location is damaging as it's in E1. BCG has previously supported the community through small amounts of BPB funding last year.

More details are in the emails from Jerusalem and Tel Aviv below. As far as we know, Germany aren't planning a statement, the US haven't commented yet and we haven't heard back from the French yet. The UN Humanitarian Coordinator is issuing a statement tomorrow and the EEAS are considering a spokesperson statement.

[Near East Dept, FCO]
From: [BCG Jerusalem]
Sent: 17 May 2016 16:53
To: [Near East Dept, FCO]
Subject: RE: Home demolitions at Jabal Baba

Chris

I contacted my EU Quint counterparts.

The EEAS is considering a spokesperson statement, covering the latest demolitions in E1 but also the demolitions since the beginning of the year.

The Spanish and Italians have recommended a statement to their capitals, but are waiting to hear back. French have reported on it, but haven't heard back yet. The Germans don't expect Berlin to make a statement.

We've received the following confirmation and further details from UN OCHA:

On Monday, 16 May 2016, the Israeli authorities dismantled and confiscated the material of 10 pre-insulated shelters in the Palestinian Bedouin community of Jabal al Baba. The incident resulted in the displacement of nine families, comprising 53 people, including 26 children. The total cost of the confiscated material is USD 36,058.98.

The structures were part of an intervention implemented by ACF, under the project "Emergency response to protect vulnerable families living in inadequate shelters through the rehabilitation of shelters and provision of winterization kits (tent covers) in East Jerusalem peripheries, and Eastern Ramallah - OPT-15/DDA-3482/oPt/SNFI/INGO/2262 ", funded via the oPt Humanitarian Fund."

So the structures were funded from the Humanitarian Protection fund, not ECHO; the UK did not fund these structures. The UN Humanitarian Coordinator will make a public statement tomorrow on this (he is away from the OPTs today).

Let me know if you need anything more from me on this tomorrow.

Thanks

[BCG Jerusalem]

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