

11.9.2018

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on the statement by the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

pursuant to Rule 123(2) of the Rules of Procedure

on the threat of demolition of Khan al-Ahmar and other Bedouin villages (2018/2849(RSP))

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on behalf of the ALDE Group

European Parliament resolution on the threat of demolition of Khan al-Ahmar and other Bedouin villages (2018/2849(RSP))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict,
 - having regard to the statement by the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (VP/HR) Federica Mogherini of 7 September 2018 on the latest developments regarding the planned demolition of Khan al-Ahmar,
 - having regard to the joint statement by France, Germany, Italy, Spain and the UK of 10 September 2018 on Khan al-Ahmar,
 - having regard to the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949,
 - having regard to Rule 123(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas on 5 September 2018, the High Court of Justice of Israel rejected petitions by the residents of Khan al-Ahmar, a Palestinian Bedouin village in Area C in the occupied West Bank, allowing the Israeli authorities to proceed with the execution of demolition orders against this community as of 12 September 2018;
- B. whereas Khan al-Ahmar is located in the E1 corridor area in the occupied West Bank; whereas preserving the status quo in this area is of fundamental importance for the viability of the two-state solution and for the establishment of a contiguous and viable Palestinian state in the future;
- C. whereas Parliament has repeatedly opposed all actions that undermine the viability of the two-state solution and urged both sides to demonstrate, through policies and actions, a genuine commitment to a two-state solution in order to rebuild trust;
- D. whereas the Israeli authorities consider that the location of the village, adjacent to Highway 1, put its population and users of the highway in immediate danger and have tried in vain to agree a relocation plan with the residents;
- E. whereas forcible transfers are prohibited under the Fourth Geneva Convention, unless the security of the population or imperative military reasons so demand; whereas persons thus evacuated must be transferred back to their homes as soon as hostilities in the area in question have ceased;
- F. whereas beyond Khan al-Ahmar, the residents of a number of other Bedouin villages live under the constant threat of demolition and evacuation, in both the Israeli Negev and Area C in the occupied West Bank, owing to the policy of the current Israeli Government towards these communities;

1. Joins the VP/HR, France, Germany, Italy, Spain and the UK in their call for the Israeli Government to shelve the relocation plan that will lead to the demolition of the village and the forcible transfer of its population to another location; considers it to be of the utmost importance for the EU to continue to speak with one voice on this matter;
2. Asks the Israeli authorities to consider, when taking their final decision, not only the security and economic grounds on which they justify their relocation plan, but also the sensitive location of the village; recalls that Area C is of strategic importance for preserving the contiguity of a future Palestinian state;
3. Considers therefore that the demolitions would severely threaten the viability of the two-state solution and undermine prospects for peace; reiterates, in this context, that protecting and preserving the viability of the two-state solution is the immediate priority for EU policies and action on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the Middle East peace process;
4. Stresses that the Palestinian Authority has already indicated that it will appeal the Supreme Court decision with a view to establishing that the demolition of Khan al-Ahmar and the forcible transfer of its population constitute a breach of international humanitarian law;
5. Calls on the VP/HR, should the demolition of and eviction from Khan al-Ahmar take place, to demand full compensation from Israel for the destruction of EU-funded infrastructure;
6. Calls on the Israeli Government to put an immediate end to its policy of threats of demolition and eviction against the Bedouin communities living in the Negev and in Area C in the occupied West Bank;
7. Reminds Israel, as occupying power, of its obligations towards the Palestinian population living under its occupation since 1967, in line with the Fourth Geneva Convention; stresses that breaches of these obligations constitute serious crimes under international humanitarian law;
8. Reiterates its strong support for the two-state solution with the secure state of Israel and an independent, democratic, contiguous and viable Palestinian state living side by side in peace and security along the 1967 borders, with Jerusalem as the capital of both states, on the basis of the right of self-determination and full respect for international law; condemns any unilateral decision and action that may undermine the prospects of this solution;
9. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the EU Special Representative for the Middle East Peace Process, the governments and parliaments of the Member States, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, the Knesset and the Government of Israel, the President of the Palestinian Authority and the Palestinian Legislative Council.