

## Urgent Action for Khan al-Ahmar – September 2018

Khan al-Ahmar is one of nine Palestinian Bedouin villages on the Jerusalem to Jericho Road, in the occupied West Bank. Its families were evicted from the Negev Desert in 1952 to make way for an Israeli town. They live in abject poverty, have been denied basic amenities, including fresh water and have suffered constant



removal by Israel. They are now threatened with imminent demolition of their homes and the school that serves the ninety-two children of the scattered community.

In July 2018, the Israeli military began the

demolition of the village. It was halted, pending High Court hearings. Demolitions take place daily as part of Israel's plan to clear Palestinians from the area, to make way for Jewish-only settlement expansion. To the east of Khan al-Ahmar lies the settlement of Maale Adumim and, to the west, the settlement of Kfar Adumim. **Israeli Settlements are illegal under international law.**

Israel is determined that the families will be removed from the village and offered two sites, one of which is next to a festering Israeli rubbish dump. The other is near a sewage treatment works. **“Forcible Transfer of people under occupation is a serious breach of the Fourth Geneva Convention. The deportation of or transfer of all or parts of the population of the occupied territory within or outside this territory constitutes a war crime under Article 8 of the Rome Statute.” (Amnesty International)**

The British government has condemned these proposals but can no longer stand idly by while Israel flagrantly ignores international law. **It is time to take real action.** It's time for the UK government to end its complicity in Israel's systematic violation of Palestinian rights.

The Israeli High Court decision on September 5<sup>th</sup> 2018, was that demolition is feasible in 7 days time. That means the school and village may be demolished. The area will be declared a closed military zone.

### Urgent action:

Please write letters to the following :

**The Foreign Secretary, Jeremy Hunt, and Alistair Burt, Minister for the Middle East, at:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office, King Charles Street, London, SW1A 2AH. Email [fcocorrespondence@fco.gov.uk](mailto:fcocorrespondence@fco.gov.uk)

**Your MP and MEPs:** <https://www.parliament.uk/mps-lords-and-offices/mps/>  
[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/unitedkingdom/en/your-meps/uk\\_meps.html](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/unitedkingdom/en/your-meps/uk_meps.html)

**Your Union:** many of them have campaigns to support Palestine;

- Tell them about the latest decision on Khan al Ahmar, the demolitions and the forcible transfers;
- Ask them :  
- not only to condemn the removal of the Palestinian Bedouin residents of Khan al-Ahmar and surrounding area but **to take action to demand that the Israeli Government immediately reverse its decision, stop the forcible transfer of the people and the demolition of the village and Tire School.**

**Ask your Faith leaders** to speak out strongly in support of the Palestinian Bedouins and against the Israeli Government's demolitions, their forcible transfers, their violations of international law and denial of Human Rights.

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2018/09/the-palestinian-children-who-went-back-to-school-early-to-stop-it-being-demolished/>

<https://waronwant.org/justice-palestine>

**More information - Pax Christi - [www.paxchrist.org.uk](http://www.paxchrist.org.uk)**