



EUROPEAN UNION

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**Statement by High Representative Catherine Ashton on
Israel-Palestinian proximity peace talks**

Catherine Ashton, the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the Commission, made the following statement today:

"I am deeply concerned by recent settlement-related activity in East Jerusalem and the recent unrest in Silwan. I recall that the European Union has never recognised the annexation of East Jerusalem. Settlements and the demolition of homes are illegal under international law, constitute an obstacle to peace and threaten to make a two-state solution impossible.

If there is to be genuine peace, a way must be found through negotiations to resolve the status of Jerusalem as the future capital of two states. I would like to call on Israel to refrain from measures which may undermine the ongoing proximity talks. These talks enjoy our full support and the parties need to engage seriously in these negotiations.

I also want to strongly condemn the attack on UNRWA Summer Games recreation facility in Gaza. UNRWA's Summer Games are an excellent initiative to promote the wellbeing of Gaza's children and they will continue to count with our strong support."
