



Craig Whittaker MP

CALDER VALLEY

www.craigwhittakermp.co.uk

Israel and the Situation at Khan al-Amar

Thank you for contacting me about the demolitions at Khan al-Ahmar.

As a Government Whip I am prevented from signing EDMs by Parliamentary convention, however, I am conscious that this issue raises concerns and have set out the Government's view below.

I can tell you that my colleagues in Government raised their strong concerns with the Israeli authorities over the demolitions at Khan al-Ahmar and repeatedly called on the Israeli Government to halt these demolitions. I understand that a British official from the UK Consulate General in Jerusalem visited Khan al-Ahmar to show the UK Government's support for the community.

The Government believes that demolitions and evictions of Palestinians from their homes cause unnecessary suffering; call into question Israel's commitment to a viable two-state solution; and, in all but exceptional cases, are contrary to international humanitarian law.

I firmly believe that the international community must redouble its efforts to support a comprehensive peace agreement that delivers an independent Palestine alongside a safe and secure Israel, and I know that the Foreign Secretary shares this view. A two-state solution brought about through agreement is the most effective way for Palestinian aspirations of statehood to be met.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Craig Whittaker'.

Craig Whittaker MP