



Jerusalem, 28 January 2012

### **Local EU statement on recent arrests of Palestinian lawmakers**

"The EU Missions in Jerusalem and Ramallah are concerned about the arrest at the ICRC office in East-Jerusalem of Palestinian Legislative Council member Mohammed Totah and former Minister for Jerusalem Affairs Khaled Abu Arafah. The EU missions in Jerusalem and Ramallah are also concerned about the recent arrests of PLC Speaker Aziz Dweik and PLC members Khaled Tafesh and Abduljabbar Foqaha.

The EU has followed the case of Palestinians who have found shelter against deportation orders since July 2010 in the office of the International Committee of the Red Cross in East Jerusalem.

The EU raised this matter publicly at the Human Rights Council in March 2011.

The 23 July 2007 Council Conclusions call for the immediate release of Palestinian legislators detained by Israel.

These actions are not conducive to the confidence building efforts, in which the EU is fully engaged, aiming at the resumption of direct peace negotiations between the Parties in line with the Quartet statement of 23 September."

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