

# AlSheikh discusses latest developments with French officials

FCC Member and the head of the General Authority of Civil Affairs, H.E. Minister Hussein Al-Sheikh, met with the Director for Middle East and North Africa at the French Ministry for Foreign Affairs, H.E. Ambassador Christophe Farnaud, and the French Consul General, Mr. Rene Troccaz, and their accompanying delegation at the headquarters of the General Authority of Civil Affairs today, Thursday, where they discussed the importance of halting the destructive war and of reaching a ceasefire immediately.

They have also discussed the issue of East Jerusalem and the need to preserve the status quo in the Haram al-Sharif and to stop the displacement policy.

H.E. Al-Sheikh emphasized that the political solution based on international legitimacy and the establishment of a Palestinian state on the borders of the 4th of June, with East Jerusalem as its capital, is a guarantee of security, stability and prosperity, and would be seen as "HOPE" for all parties.

The French envoy affirmed his call for an immediate ceasefire and the protection of civilians. And stressed that the political horizon based on international legitimacy is the only hope for a solution to the series of violence, and to reach stability and peace, he also affirmed that France is making regional and international efforts towards stopping this devastating aggression and moving to a political path under international endorsement.

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# **AlSheikh and Faraj meet with the US envoy: demand an immediate end to the aggression against the Palestinian people**

The Fatah Central Committee Member and Head of the General Authority of Civil Affairs, Minister Hussein AlSheikh, along with His Excellency the Director of General Intelligence, MG Majed Faraj, met with the American delegation headed by US envoy Mr. Hady Amr, where they discussed recent events, with a focus on the Israeli aggression against our Palestinian people in the Occupied Territories (Jerusalem, the Gaza Strip, and the West Bank).

The Palestinian delegation called on the US Administration to make every effort possible and pressure the Government of the Occupation to immediately stop this aggression, stop displacement, respect sanctities, and put an end to settler terror, warning against the continuation of this aggression by the right-wing government and its settlers, which may kill or destroy any hope of reviving a serious political process and reaching a comprehensive solution that guarantees an end to the occupation and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

The meeting also raised several bilateral issues of interest to the two parties.

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# **Al-Sheikh: Israel officially informed that its position on elections in Jerusalem remains negative**

Hussein al-Sheikh, Minister of Civil Affairs and member of Fatah Central Committee, said today that “the Israeli government has officially informed us that the Israeli position on holding elections in East Jerusalem remains negative.”

He said in a statement, that all that is being rumored by some parties that the Israeli government has agreed to allow the elections, including in East Jerusalem, is “unfounded.”

Sheikh stressed at the same time that “the official party that must receive the official Israeli answer is the Palestinian National Authority.”

Israeli refusal to allow Palestinian legislative elections planned for May 22 to be held in occupied East Jerusalem may lead to either postponing the elections or cancelling them.

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## **AlSheikh meets with the**

# **British Minister of the Cabinet Office**

This morning, H.E. Minister Hussein AlSheikh met with the British Minister of the Cabinet Office the Rt. Hon Michael Gove. Minister Gove was accompanied by a delegation from the British Consulate, which included the British Consul General Mr. Philip Hall, the Head of the Political Department, Ms. Daisy Organ, along with several political advisers and secretaries.

Minister AlSheikh informed the Rt. Hon Gove on the latest political developments on the Palestinian arena and the region, as well as the upcoming Palestinian elections in the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem.

H.E. Minister AlSheikh also briefed His Excellency the Chancellor on the current economic and political affairs, with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic in Palestine. He also expressed thanks and appreciation for the British government and its continuous support through the World Health Organization.

Also present at the meeting, from the the Palestinian side, was Deputy Minister Mr. Ayman Qandil, the Director of the Minister's Office, Ayah AlMuhsin, and Protocol Officer, Jehad Abualhaj.

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# **President Abbas receives the**

# **Jordanian foreign minister carrying a message from King Abdullah**

President Mahmoud Abbas received today at the presidential headquarters in Ramallah Jordan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi carrying a message from King Abdullah II.

After the meeting, the head of the Civil Affairs Authority and member of Fatah Central Committee, Hussein al-Sheikh, said that Safadi came carrying a message from King Abdullah II confirming the depth of the historical relationship and coordination at the highest level between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the State of Palestine, and it dealt with the political developments in the region and some issues related to bilateral relations, stressing common historical issues and relations, and continuing coordination at the highest level.

He affirmed the harmony in the positions of the two sides in all files, whether it was the recent political developments in the region or Jordan's full and firm support for Palestinian political right to establish the state on the June 4, 1967, borders with East Jerusalem as its capital, which constitute a red line for Palestine and Jordan, as well as the King and the Kingdom's support for the Palestinian elections and the choice of the leadership to continue in the democratic choice, and its request from the international community to facilitate the electoral process and overcome all difficulties in order to achieve it.

The Jordanian Foreign Minister said that today's meeting comes as a continuation of the contacts and consultation between King Abdullah II and President Mahmoud Abbas, and to deliver a

message about the joint efforts Jordan and other countries are undertaking in order to take real steps capable of breaking the deadlock and creating a political horizon that allows for the restoration of serious and effective negotiations to achieve the common and main goal, and the strategic interest of the region and the world, which is reaching a just peace, which can only be achieved if the Palestinian people obtain their full legitimate rights, foremost is their right to an independent and sovereign state with occupied Jerusalem as its capital on the June 4, 1967, borders and according to all agreed terms of reference.

Safadi stressed that there are different circumstances regionally and internationally, especially with the new US administration, and the positive steps it took that require us to interact with it positively and to press towards looking for the next move that must take place.

He stressed the need to find the international action capable of stopping the unilateral Israeli steps that undermine the two-state solution, specifically building and expanding settlements and seizing people's homes and evicting them from their homes as is the case in Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood in occupied Jerusalem, which the Kingdom is making efforts in coordination with the brothers and the international community to preserve the right of these people to remain in their homes.

"We have provided all the documents that we have, which can help the Palestinian residents to preserve their full rights," said Safadi in reference to documents related to ownership of the homes in Sheikh Jarrah.

On the issue of elections, Safadi affirmed that Jordan stands with all its capabilities to help achieve a successful electoral process, stressing that the elections are a necessary and important step taken by the Palestinian leadership, and we are working to remove all obstacles they

face.

He reiterated the centrality of the Palestinian issue to Jordan, which was and will remain fundamental, indicating that Jordan will remain the supporter and the closest to the Palestinians in order to fulfill their legitimate rights, saying, "Jerusalem is a red line for Jordan, the king and our people, as it is a red line for the state of Palestine."

Safadi expressed Jordan's rejection of all Israeli measures and attempts to change the Arab, Islamic, and Christian identity of occupied Jerusalem, and for any attempt to change the historical status of the holy sites in Jerusalem.

"We will confront any effort that tries to undermine the existing historical and legal status of the Islamic and Christian holy sites in Jerusalem. Our goal is one and our vision is common. Jordan and Palestine were and will remain the closest to each other, and the Jordanian effort will be focused on supporting the Palestinians and ensuring that they achieve their legitimate rights, especially the right to freedom and the independent state because that is a condition for achieving security, stability and regional peace that we all seek," said the Jordanian foreign minister.

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## **AlSheikh on the Detainees and the Elections**

The Head of the General Authority of Civil Affairs, Minister Hussein AlSheikh, said this evening, Sunday: "We will formally demand the Israeli government to allow the Palestinian prisoners in its prisons and detention centers to exercise their right to vote and participate in the Palestinian

elections, as they are guaranteed by the Palestinian law, under the supervision of the Palestinian Central Elections Committee. The system has the right to run."

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## **AlSheikh meets with the Consul General of France**

The Head of the General Authority for Civil Affairs and Fatah Central Committee member, Minister Hussein AlSheikh, met with the Consul General of France, Mr. Rene Troccaz, today Tuesday. Also present at the meeting was Political Advisor, Lydia Tabtab.

The meeting discussed the latest political developments in the Palestinian arena, and the region, with special emphasis on the upcoming general Palestinian elections.

Mr. Troccaz welcomed the ongoing preparations and efforts for holding the elections and stressed France's readiness to support the electoral process where needed.

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## **The elections are an absolutely Palestinian decision**

The Head of the General Authority of Civil Affairs, Minister Hussein AlSheikh, said this evening, Sunday, that the

elections are a Palestinian decision that stems from the national interest to reinforce democracy with the participation of all Palestinians, to ensure the legitimacy of the ballot.

AlSheikh tweeted: "The rumors surrounding European and other threats are false and deliberate."

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## **AlSheikh: The citizens are eager to cast their ballots**

The Head of the General Authority of Civil Affairs and Fatah Central Committee Member, Minister Hussein AlSheikh has praised the excellent voter turnout that the electoral register has shown. He said: "This proves that the citizens are highly aware of their civil rights and eager to cast their ballots."

And in a tweet, he has said: "Respect to our great people, and praised be Fatah's young men and women for their efforts across the various frameworks and institutions."

AlSheikh added: "The victory of awareness is a prelude to the victory of the best option. Long live Palestine. Victory shall be ours."

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# **AlSheikh meets with the Consul General of Italy**

Today, Monday morning, Minister Hussein AlSheikh received in his office in Ramallah the Italian Consul General to the State of Palestine, Mr. Giuseppe Fedele.

The meeting raised various topics, including the latest political developments on the Palestinian political arena and the General Elections dialogue that was launched in Cairo today.

AlSheikh also stressed the important role that the Italian Republic plays through the European Union in supporting the Palestinian people in their aspirations for statehood in accordance with international legitimacy, as well as in light of the recent Coronavirus pandemic.