



10 March, 2015

His Excellency Mr. Laurent Fabius  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
37, Quai d'Orsay, Paris, France

Dear Mr. Fabius,

I wish to call your attention to a matter of utmost seriousness and urgency. There are growing indications that Israel is preparing to move ahead with implementation of the Cable Car Project in Occupied East Jerusalem, one of the most dangerous illegal settlement infrastructural projects around the Old City of Jerusalem.

To my disappointment we have found that two French companies Safege and Poma are involved in a joint project sponsored by the Israeli government and the Israeli Jerusalem Municipality to construct a cable car that is designed to operate within Jerusalem's discriminatory transportation system designed to serve the Israeli population and in particular Israeli settlers and Israeli hosted tourists in Occupied East Jerusalem. According to media reports, the project will link West Jerusalem to the Old City south of Al Aqsa Mosque compound, Mount of Olives and Gethsemane Church.

This contract undertaken by French companies will assist in the reinforcement of Israel's illegal *de facto* annexation of East Jerusalem and in increasing mobility between Israeli settlements in occupied East Jerusalem and West Jerusalem as a way of encouraging the illegal transfer of Israel's population into occupied Palestinian territory. The project will also lead to the illegal expropriation of private property including those of the Muslim waqf and Christian churches and the destruction of UNESCO world heritage sites. This is the latest in Israel's deliberate policy of creating illegal "facts on the ground" aimed not only toward the destruction of the mosaic of the holy city of Jerusalem, but also toward permanently blocking the realization of the right to self-determination of the Palestinian people and toward precluding any possibility of achieving peace in our region.

The actions outlined above are in clear violation of the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention and the Hague Regulations of 1907, the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict of 1954 and its related protocols and the Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage of 1972, among others. As a High Contracting Party to these conventions, I respectfully request France to take urgent action to fulfill its obligations to respect and ensure respect for the Conventions, including by non-state actors, by insisting that Safege and Poma immediately cease their involvement in the cable car project in Occupied East Jerusalem. I also urge you to issue an advisory to all French companies counseling them not to work with, operate, or provide any services to illegal settlements or their associated infrastructure.

Sincerely,

Dr. Saeb Erekat  
Head of PLO Negotiations Affairs Department  
PLO Executive Committee Member

