ICC said to tell Israel evacuation of Bedouin village 'possible' under international law

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<https://www.i24news.tv/en/news/israel/189767-181128-icc-reportedly-tells-israel-evacuation-of-bedouin-village-doesn-t-violate-international-law>

Israel has reportedly received assurances from the International Criminal Court that its contentious plan to evacuate and demolish the strategically located Bedouin village of Khan Al-Ahmar in the West Bank does not contravene international law.

A report by Israel's Walla news site published Wednesday said that Israel's deputy attorney general for international law Roi Sheindorf recently held consultations with ICC officials in The Hague during which he outlined Israel's intention to dismantle the village of Khan Al-Ahmar.

The report cites diplomatic officials as saying that ICC officials conveyed that the evacuation was "possible".

The approximately 180 residents of Khan al-Ahmar have been bracing for the demolition of their village since October, after Israel's High Court of Justice green-lighted its evacuation after nine years of legal battles.

The plan drew international condemnation, with the EU and UN both warning it may well constitute a war crime, and was [ultimately frozen](https://www.i24news.tv/en/news/israel/186794-181020-israel-postpones-evacuation-and-demolition-of-khan-al-ahmar-bedouin-village) by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu who said he wanted to exhaust negotiations towards an evacuation of the village by agreement with residents.

A report by Israel's Army Radio earlier this week said that the government intended to postpone the plan until after the publication of an upcoming report by the ICC pertaining to Palestinian war crimes complaints.

Netanyahu on Monday, however, assured members of his right-ring Likud faction that the village would be demolished "very soon", though he did not lay out any time frame.

Israeli authorities say that village was built illegally, without proper permits, and that it is too close the the major roadway.

Activists say Khan al-Ahmar was established without permits after the Jahalin Bedouin tribe, originally from the Negev desert, were expelled from the area by the Israeli military in the 1950's and then again from Kfar Adumim, where they leased land.

The village is located in an area known as E1, a strategic area earmarked for Israeli development which forms a buffer east of Jerusalem that Palestinians say would divide the West Bank and badly hurt the possibility of a contiguous Palestinian state.

The sensitive zone is part of the West Bank’s “Area C”, which makes up some 60 percent of West Bank territory and over which Israel has administrative control according to the terms of the 1995 Oslo accords.

The United Nations, European Union, and rights groups have opposed the razing of the village, which consists mainly of makeshift structures of tin and wood, warning repeatedly of the impact on the local Bedouin community and the prospect of a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Diplomats from Belgium, Finland, France, Ireland, Italy, Spain, Switzerland and the European Union all expressed concern over the demolition of the village, which became a matter for international attention after officials from those nations were barred by Israeli police from visiting a school there.

The EU denounced Israeli action and passed a resolution declaring that the slated destruction of the Bedouin village and eviction of its residents constitutes a violation of international humanitarian law and may well be considered a war crime.