

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 17, 2020

The Hon. Michael R. Pompeo
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We write to express our grave concern about the Israeli government's recent demolitions in the Palestinian Bedouin community of Homsa al-Baquia (Khierbet Humsah) in the Jordan Valley. These acts are a serious violation of international law that destroyed homes and displaced 73 people, including 41 children. We urge you to communicate with the Israeli government immediately to condemn the demolitions and to secure a commitment ending future displacement efforts.

Creeping annexation cannot be a policy that the U.S. government supports if we wish to see peace in the region. This single act was the largest Israeli displacement of Palestinians in four years, behavior only made possible by continued silence from the American government. This is a grave humanitarian issue that demands your immediate attention and our collective condemnation. The need for engagement by the US government is particularly urgent due to the renewed threat of demolition against the Palestinian village of Khan al-Ahmar and the possibility that several additional villages in the region of Masafer Yatta will be demolished.

In addition to requesting that the State Department condemn this violation of international law, we also wish to know if American-sourced military equipment was used in the recent Israeli government displacements of the Palestinian Bedouin community of Homsa al-Baquia (Khierbet Humsah).

This request echoes a prior request made to you by 64 Members of Congress on March 16th. We called on you then, and continue to now, to "work to prevent unlawful home demolitions and the forcible transfer of civilians everywhere in the world and prevent the use of U.S-origin equipment in this destructive practice." The Administration's silence to that Congressional letter, and Israel's recent actions, is deafening.

It is imperative that in your waning two months in office human rights violations, and violations of international law, continue to be forcefully rejected by the American government. It is the only way that a peaceful, comprehensive solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict can be achieved.

Sincerely,

Mark Pocan
Member of Congress

Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress

James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress

Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress

Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress

Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress

Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress

Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress

Ro Khanna
Member of Congress

Judy Chu
Member of Congress

Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress

Betty McCollum
Member of Congress

Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress

Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress

Daniel T. Kildee
Member of Congress

Peter Welch
Member of Congress

Dwight Evans
Member of Congress

André Carson
Member of Congress

Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress

Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress

Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress

Jared Huffman
Member of Congress

Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress

Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress

Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress

Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress

Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress

John Yarmuth
Member of Congress

David E. Price
Member of Congress

Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress

Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

Jesús G. “Chuy” García.
Member of Congress

Rosa DeLauro
Member of Congress

Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress

Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress

Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress