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
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