

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 22, 2026

The Honorable Marco Rubio
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Rubio:

As Members of Congress who support a strong U.S.-Israel relationship, we are writing to urge you to engage with the Israeli government to prevent the forced displacement of Palestinian residents from the Bedouin village of Khallet al-Sidra, located near Mukhmas in the West Bank, and to ensure that residents are permitted to safely return and rebuild their homes following multiple devastating arson attacks by Israeli settlers. Allowing settlers to successfully use violence to displace shepherds from their homes, expand territorial control, and undermine prospects for peace is an unbearable injustice that runs counter to U.S. values and jeopardizes the possibility of a negotiated two-state solution to the Israel-Palestine conflict.

Khallet al-Sidra is a small shepherding community that has existed for decades. In recent months, residents have faced escalating violence and intimidation from Israeli settlers, including arson attacks that have destroyed homes, vehicles, and essential livelihood structures.¹ Reports indicate that settlers have explicitly threatened residents, contributing to a coercive environment that has forced families to flee. When residents have attempted to return and rebuild, Israeli authorities have reportedly restricted access to the area and denied reconstruction, leaving families displaced and without recourse.²

For decades, the Bedouin families of Khallet al-Sidra have made this land their home. They have bravely tried to remain despite increasing threats and pressure, but cannot continue to do so if the Israeli government continues to enable displacement and violence persists without effective intervention.

This situation reflects a broader and deeply concerning pattern of escalating settler violence and forced displacement across the West Bank. For the past two and a half years, Palestinian communities, especially Bedouin and shepherding communities in Area C, have faced sustained attacks, intimidation, and increasing barriers to remaining on their land. In 2025, the United Nations documented over 1,800 settler attacks that resulted in deaths, injuries, or property damage in approximately 280 communities across the West Bank.³ The United Nations has also documented the accelerating displacement this violence is causing. As of late March 2026, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs reported that 1,697 Palestinians from 33 communities had already been displaced in 2026 due to settler violence and access restrictions, surpassing the total for all of 2025, and that 38 communities have been emptied since 2023.⁴ This sustained pattern contributes to de facto forced displacement and raises serious concerns under international humanitarian law, including obligations related to the protection of civilian populations under occupation.

U.S. pressure on the Israeli government has proven crucial in protecting Palestinian communities in the past. Some communities facing significant demolition threats have remained in place in part due to sustained international and U.S. diplomatic attention. We urge you to use your diplomatic influence to help ensure that residents of Khallet al-Sidra can safely return to their land without fear of violence and that immediate steps are taken to prevent further settler attacks and

¹ <https://www.timesofisrael.com/settlers-drove-an-entire-village-into-exile-palestinians-say-the-state-is-keeping-them-away/>

² Id

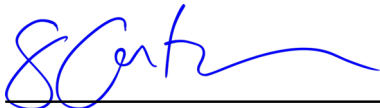
³ <https://www.un.org/unispa/document/humanitarian-situation-update-352-west-bank/>

⁴ <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/humanitarian-situation-report-27-march-2026>

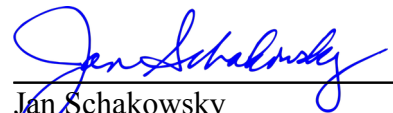
hold perpetrators accountable. This should include permitting the reconstruction of homes and essential infrastructure destroyed in recent incidents, as well as ensuring that Israeli authorities provide adequate protection to vulnerable communities consistent with their legal obligations.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent humanitarian matter. Protecting vulnerable communities from displacement and violence is critical to upholding shared values and preserving the possibility of a just and lasting peace.

Sincerely,



Sean Casten
Member of Congress



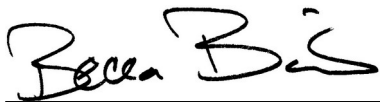
Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



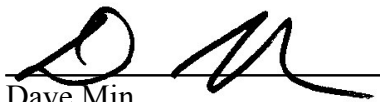
Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



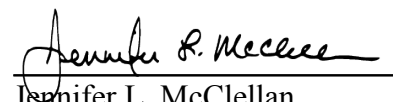
Becca Balint
Member of Congress



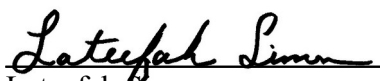
Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



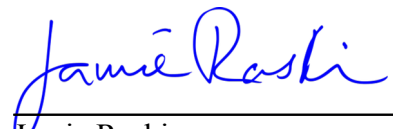
Dave Min
Member of Congress



Jennifer L. McClellan
Member of Congress



Lateefah Simon
Member of Congress



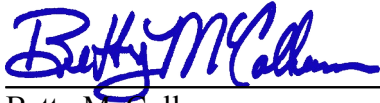
Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



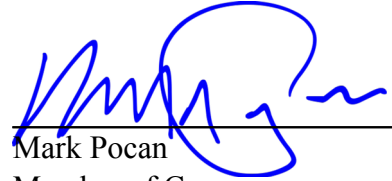
Rosa L. DeLauro
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Chris Deluzio
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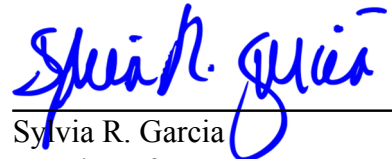
Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



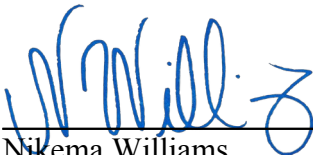
Mark Pocan
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Al Green
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Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress



Nikema Williams
Member of Congress



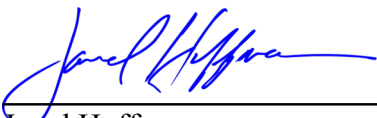
Andre Carson
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree
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Val Hoyle
Member of Congress



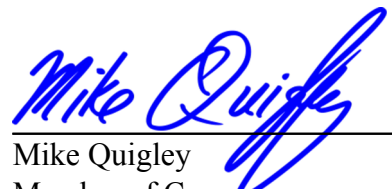
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Steve Cohen
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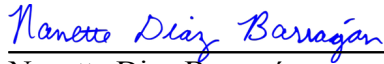
Mike Quigley
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James P. McGovern
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Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



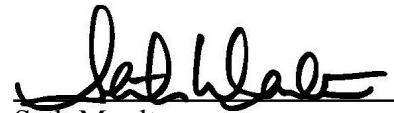
Nanette Diaz Barragán
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