June 11, 2020

H.E. David Friedman
U.S. Ambassador to Israel

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

We are supporters of the security and safety of Israelis and Palestinians writing to express concern with reports of acts of violence perpetrated against Palestinians living in the West Bank by residents of Israeli settlements. We ask you to join us in strongly condemning all acts of violence, whether perpetrated against Israelis or Palestinians.

According to Israeli media, Israeli human rights experts and the United Nations, there has been a sharp increase in these violent acts as both Israeli and Palestinian authorities have necessarily refocused their efforts on combating the COVID-19 pandemic and implementing containment measures like shut downs and curfews. Incidents of violence against Palestinians committed by settlers increased 78% in the last two weeks of March. These acts include physical assault, uprooting of Palestinian-owned olive trees, and stoning of vehicles driven by Palestinians. The rise in attacks is being attributed by UN officials and Israeli security services partially to school closures at settlements in the West Bank. As both Israelis and Palestinians are methodically combating the spread of COVID-19, any increase in violence between Israelis and Palestinians only makes it more difficult to address the growing public health crisis.

This spike amid the Coronavirus pandemic follows on already significant increases in settler violence against Palestinians over the last two years. As reported by the New York Times, “attacks by settlers on Palestinians and their property... increased by 50 percent” in 2018. In 2019, documented incidents of violence against Palestinians rose another 40%. During this same time period, the UN recorded a steady decrease in the number of incidents committed by Palestinians against settlement residents - attacks which Congress has rightly and repeatedly condemned.

As supporters of the safety and security of Israelis and Palestinians, we grieve for each family that has suffered harm or lost a loved one to this conflict. There is no doubt that such incidents, in addition to causing tragic suffering, harm the prospects for a negotiated two-state solution to the conflict that is in each of Israel’s, the Palestinians’ and US interests. We believe the United States must condemn all acts of violence that pull us further away from peace and should make its condemnation clear whether the victim is Israeli or Palestinian. We therefore urge you to urgently and publicly speak out against settler violence and work with relevant Israeli authorities to address both the spike in attacks during the Coronavirus crisis and the overall surge in such violence in the past two years.
We look forward to hearing from you on this matter as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Deb Haaland
Member of Congress
/s/

Jared Huffman
Member of Congress
/s/

John Yarmuth
Member of Congress
/s/

Alama S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress
/s/

Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress
/s/

Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress
/s/

André Carson
Member of Congress
/s/

Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress
/s/

Judy Chu
Member of Congress
/s/

Steve Cohen
Member of Congress
/s/

Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress
/s/

Diana DeGette
Member of Congress
/s/

Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress
/s/

Rosa DeLauro
Member of Congress
/s/

Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress
/s/

Veronica Escobar
Member of Congress
/s/

John Garamendi
Member of Congress
/s/

Jesús G. “Chuy” García
Member of Congress
/s/

Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress
/s/

Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress
/s/

Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress
/s/

Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress
/s/

Ro Khanna
Member of Congress
/s/

Daniel T. Kildee
Member of Congress
/s/

Andy Kim
Member of Congress
/s/

Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress
/s/

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress
/s/

Andy Levin
Member of Congress
/s/

Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress
/s/

Betty McCollum
Member of Congress
/s/
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Member of Congress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>James P. McGovern</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gwen S. Moore</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joe Neguse</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ilhan Omar</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jimmy Panetta</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donald M. Payne Jr.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ed Perlmutter</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chellie Pingree</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark Pocan</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ayanna Pressley</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David E. Price</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bobby Rush</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael F. Q. San Nicolas</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan Schakowsky</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>José E. Serrano</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jackie Speier</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark Takano</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lori Trahan</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nydia M. Velázquez</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maxine Waters</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonnie Watson Coleman</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter Welch</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jennifer Wexton</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>