

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 6, 2025

H.E. Benjamin Netanyahu
Prime Minister of Israel
Prime Minister's Office
Kiryat Ben Gurion
Jerusalem, Israel

Dear Prime Minister Netanyahu,

As longtime supporters of the U.S.-Israel relationship and of human rights and democracy all over the world, we write to express our urgent opposition to your government's orders to demolish buildings, including private homes and the community center, in the West Bank village of Umm Al-Kheir. It is imperative that you immediately withdraw these demolition orders, which threaten not only the vulnerable residents of the village but further erosion of support for Israel across the US political spectrum at a time of profound concern about settler extremism in your country.

We are closely following events in Umm Al-Kheir, a Bedouin shepherding community that has faced violent attacks and demolitions for many years as Israeli settlements have expanded in the village's immediate vicinity in the West Bank.¹ We understand that the current demolition orders issued on October 28, 2025 target 13 structures, including homes and the village community center at the heart of social life there.² These demolitions would make vulnerable families homeless, including elderly people and children, just as the chill of winter descends on this desert community. This action, in service of making room for more settlers, settlements, and land only for Israelis, would be cruel, unjustified, and in naked violation of international law.

The residents of Umm Al-Kheir are still reeling from the events of July 28, 2025, when a prominent 31-year-old community leader, peace activist, and father of three, Awdah Hathaleen, was shot and killed by an Israeli settler and vigilante.³ Hathaleen, who also served the community as a teacher, gained international recognition and acclaim for his work on the Oscar-winning film *No Other Land*.⁴ The settler who killed Hathaleen, Yinon Levi, had a well-documented history of attacking Palestinian civilians and destroying their farmland and other physical property, and was previously sanctioned by

¹ <https://apnews.com/article/west-bank-israel-palestinians-bedouin-settler-violence-clf0207f558e98151333441e6065a086>

² https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/israel-issues-demolition-orders-for-13-buildings-in-west-bank-palestinian-hamlet/

³ <https://apnews.com/article/palestinians-israel-settler-violence-sanctioned-west-bank-2ee60c60369616abcece7fbaa18c96a0>

⁴ <https://www.npr.org/2025/08/12/g-s1-81501/west-bank-hathaleen-israeli-settler-shooting>

the United States for his role in attacks on Palestinians.⁵ Yet Levi was held by police for only one day after he shot Hathaleen and faced no criminal charges despite the fact that his deadly actions were caught on camera. Adding insult to fatal injury, properties now slated for demolition in Umm Al-Kheir include homes belonging to Hathaleen's relatives.

We are gravely concerned that any further actions by settlers, vigilantes or the government to destroy the village of Umm Al-Kheir will traumatize this peaceful community and jeopardize the prospect of long-term peace, mutual security and self-determination for Israelis and Palestinians at this critical moment. Continuing injury of this brutalized community will come to haunt Israel itself in the form of international isolation and outrage. Once again, we urge you to immediately withdraw these demolition orders.

As supporters of Israeli democracy who have voted to defend your nation against its enemies and to warn it away from the path of settler extremism and fanaticism, we trust you will understand the importance and enormity of this matter. Please respond at your earliest convenience so we may consider next steps.

Sincerely,



Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Jim Himes
Member of Congress



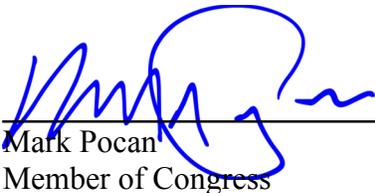
Sara Jacobs
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Dan Goldman
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Becca Balint
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Mark Pocan
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Veronica Escobar
Member of Congress



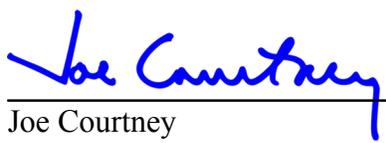
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

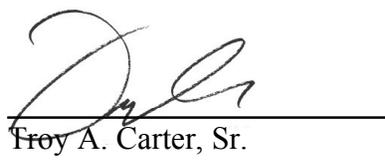
⁵ <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/jy2281>


Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress


Timothy M. Kennedy
Member of Congress


LaMonica McIver
Member of Congress


Joe Courtney
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Sean Casten
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Ro Khanna
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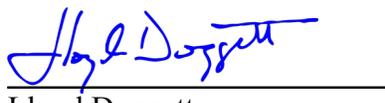

Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress

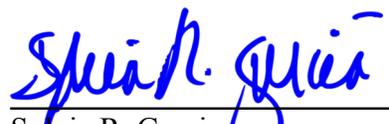

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Sylvia R. Garcia
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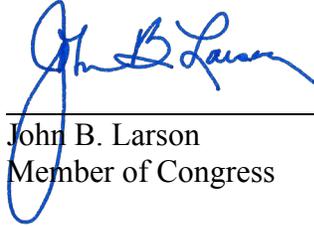

Deborah K. Ross
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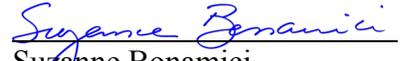

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John B. Larson
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Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



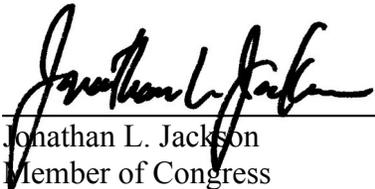
Gwen S. Moore
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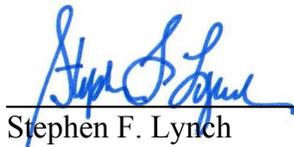
Lateefah Simon
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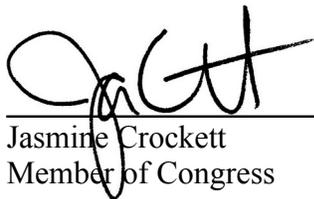
Doris Matsui
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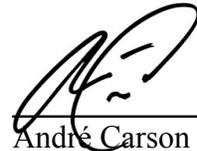
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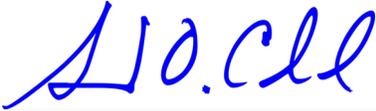
Seth Magaziner
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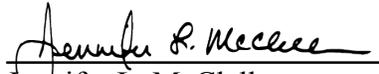
Danny K. Davis
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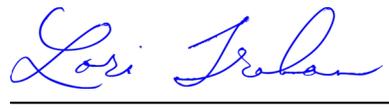
Yassamin Ansari
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Morgan McGarvey
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Eric Sorensen
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Lori Trahan
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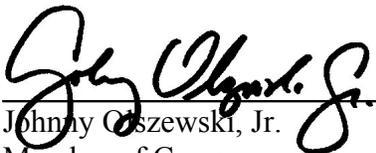
Dwight Evans
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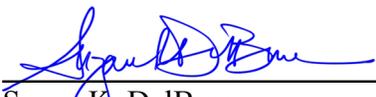
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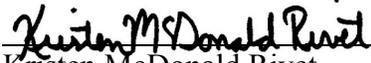
Maxwell Alejandro Frost
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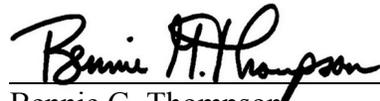


Sydney Kamlager-Dove
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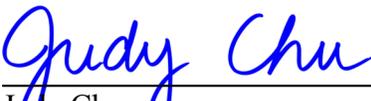

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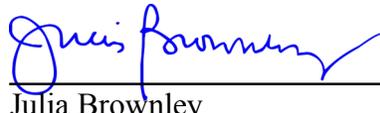

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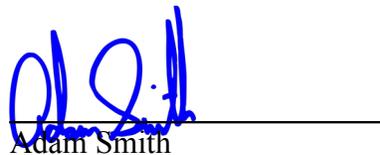

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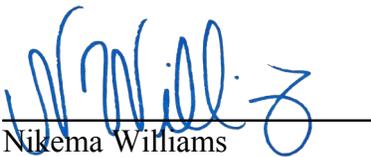

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Maxine Dexter
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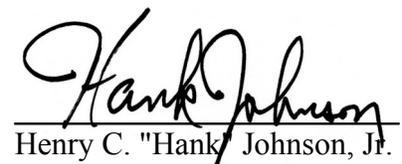

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Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
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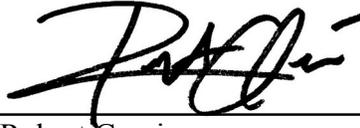
Luz M. Rivas
Member of Congress



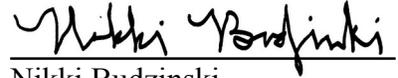
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Gabe Vasquez
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Robert Garcia
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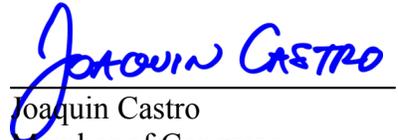
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