

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Michael Pompeo
Secretary of State
US Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington DC 20230

March 16, 2020

Dear Mr. Secretary,

We write with concerns over the ongoing home demolitions and forcible transfer of Palestinian civilians in the West Bank, including demolitions in Wadi al-Hummus and other communities in East Jerusalem. We urge you to press the Israeli government to prevent more families from being forcibly transferred and having their homes destroyed.

The Israeli government recently accelerated the rate of home demolitions. In the West Bank, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) recorded a 45% increase in the demolitions of homes and other civilian structures in 2019 compared to 2018 [1].

As supporters of the U.S.-Israel special relationship and in light of the long-standing use of U.S.-origin and supplied equipment by Israeli security forces, we specifically request an examination of Israeli compliance with the requirements applied to recipients of U.S.-origin defense articles pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act of 1976 (AECA) as amended [22 U.S.C. 2751, et. seq.]. We also request a determination as to whether a report to Congress on this issue is required by section 3(c)(2) of AECA [22 U.S.C. 2753].

The United States should 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 faithful implementation of the AECA is one important oversight tool for ensuring that U.S.-origin defense articles and other items recipient countries purchase with foreign military financing are not used for such purposes outside the scope of “legitimate self-defense.”

The AECA narrowly conditions the use of transferred U.S.-origin defense articles and other items purchased with foreign military financing “solely” for the following purposes: internal security, “legitimate self-defense,” and other narrow circumstances.

Under section 3(c)(2) of the AECA, the President must report to Congress “promptly upon the receipt of information” that a recipient of U.S.-origin defense articles may have used such articles for purposes not authorized by section 4 of the AECA if a substantial violation may have occurred.

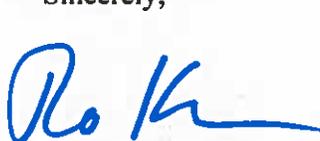
Given the information above, we request answers to the following inquiries:

1. Is the demolition of civilian homes an authorized purpose for the use of U.S.-origin and supplied defense articles or other items purchased by the Israeli government with foreign military financing?

2. Have any U.S.-origin defense articles or other items purchased by the Israeli government with foreign military financing subject to the AECA or any other U.S. law or regulation been used by Israel to conduct home demolitions?
3. Are there any restrictions on U.S.-origin defense articles or other items purchased by the Israeli government with foreign military financing that would prohibit their use in home demolitions?
4. Under what, if any, circumstances would the administration provide a notification to Congress, under section 3(c)(2) of the AECA, of the use of U.S.-origin defense articles or any other items purchased with foreign military financing in home demolitions?
5. What criteria does the administration use in evaluating claims regarding self-defense made by recipients of U.S.-origin defense articles or other items purchased with foreign military financing?
6. According to news reports [4], the Israeli military used a Caterpillar D9 bulldozer in the Wadi al-Hummus demolitions. Was this and/or similar bulldozers or tractors purchased using FMF? If so, were these items subject to end User Agreements? If so, what is the full scope of restrictions on their use which is included in any End User Agreements, Letters of Offer, or other forms of documentation accompanying these transfers?
7. What steps has the United States taken, if any, to communicate its concerns about the legal, political, and human implications of Israel's demolition of Palestinian homes in the neighborhood of Wadi al-Hummus and other communities throughout the West Bank?

We look forward to your response to these questions by April 30, 2020, and also urge you to take immediate action to press the Israeli government to prevent more home demolitions, and request that you provide Congress with the information necessary for proper oversight of the use of U.S.-origin defense articles and other items purchased with foreign military financing for use in the West Bank.

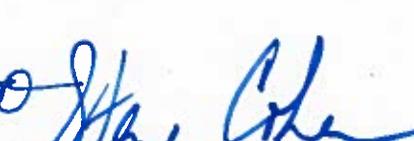
Sincerely,



Ro Khanna
Member of Congress



Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress



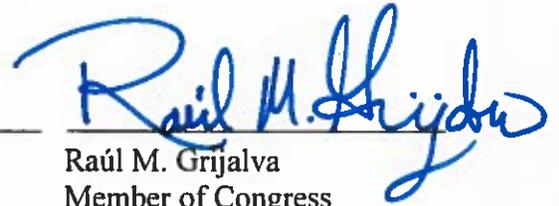
Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



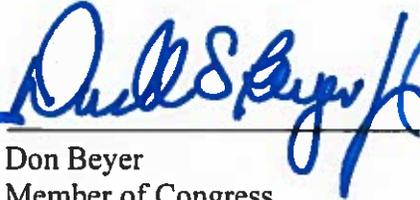
Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



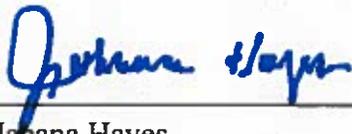
Earl Blumenauer
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Don Beyer
Member of Congress



Deb Haaland
Member of Congress



Jahana Hayes
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Mark Pocan
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Ron Kind
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Veronica Escobar
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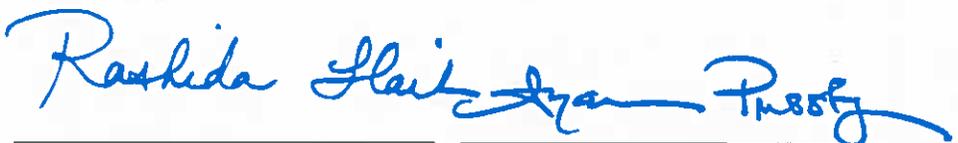
Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



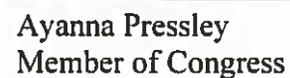
Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



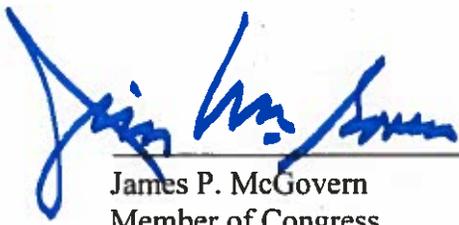
Lori Trahan
Member of Congress



Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



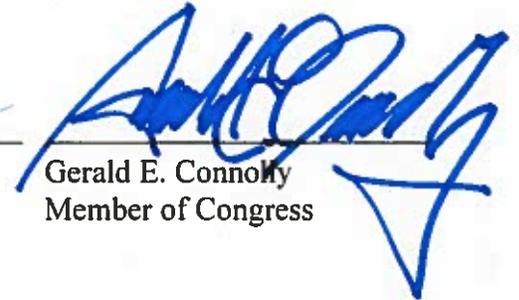
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Member of Congress



Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress



John Yarmuth
Member of Congress



Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress



David Price
Member of Congress



Daniel T. Kildee
Member of Congress



Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



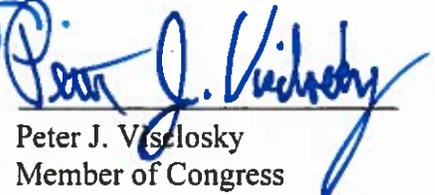
Dwight Evans
Member of Congress



A. Donald McEachin
Member of Congress



Donald M. Payne
Member of Congress



Peter J. Visclosky
Member of Congress

Mark DeSaulnier Peter DeFazio

Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress

Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress

André Carson

André Carson
Member of Congress

Danny K. Davis

Danny K. Davis
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Chellie Pingree

Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress

Peter Welch

Peter Welch
Member of Congress

Bobby Rush

Bobby Rush
Member of Congress

Maxine Waters

Maxine Waters
Member of Congress

Jesús G. "Chuy" García

Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.

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

Joaquin Castro

Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress

Gwen Moore

Gwen Moore
Member of Congress

Betty McCollum

Betty McCollum
Member of Congress

Julia Brownley

Julia Brownley
Member of Congress

Nydia M. Velázquez

Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress

Eddie Bernice Johnson

Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress

Alexia Ocasio-Cortez

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress

Judy Chu

Judy Chu
Member of Congress

Bill Foster

Bill Foster
Member of Congress

Rosa L. DeLauro

Rosa DeLauro
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

Paul D. Tonko

Paul Tonko
Member of Congress

Jackie Speier

Jackie Speier
Member of Congress

Andy Levin

Andy Levin
Member of Congress

Bonnie Watson Coleman

Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress

Jose E. Serrano

Jose E. Serrano
Member of Congress

Al Green

Al Green
Member of Congress

Lloyd Doggett

Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress

John Garamendi

John Garamendi
Member of Congress

Karen Bass

Karen Bass
Member of Congress

Tulsi Gabbard

Tulsi Gabbard
Member of Congress