

U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

July 17, 2015

The Honorable John Kerry
The U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Kerry,

We write to you with great urgency to express our serious concern about the recent decisions made by the High Court of Israel to allow the demolition of the Palestinian village of Susiya, and deny the planning rights of Palestinian Villages in Area C of the West Bank.

The Palestinian village of Susiya, located in the Hebron Governorate in the south of the occupied West Bank, is currently home to 55 families who have been living in this location for decades and hold undisputed title to their land. Half of the homes of these families and all the community's public structures are located in Area C where Israel maintains full control over planning and zoning.

Susiya submitted a professionally developed master plan to the Israeli Civil Administration (ICA) but on October 24, 2013, the ICA rejected it. In their rejection, ICA argued the villagers would be better off living somewhere else.

With the help of the non-governmental organization Rabbis for Human Rights, the villagers petitioned the High Court of Israel to allow reconsideration of their master plan. On May 4, 2015, the High Court of Israel refused to issue a temporary injunction against demolition, paving the way for the village to be demolished before their appeal is to be heard on August 3rd.

We are especially concerned about this village because on June 9th the High Court of Israel denied the right of Palestinian villages in the West Bank's Area C to plan their own communities, leaving all decisions on zoning and planning to the ICA, with no direct Palestinian representation when it comes to the future of their towns.

We urge you to take immediate action to prevent the demolition of the Palestinian village of Susiya and prevent the continuing demolition of Palestinian neighborhoods, farmlands, and olive orchards in the West Bank, East Jerusalem, Gaza and in Israel.

We hope your intervention, amplified by the concern of citizens and countries throughout the world, will assure the safety of the Palestinian Village of Susiya.

Most gratefully,




Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress




Keith Ellison
Member of Congress




John Conyers
Member of Congress




Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress




James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Lois Capps
Member of Congress



Jim McDermott
Member of Congress



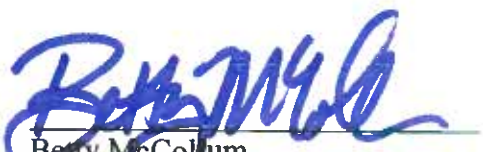
André Carson
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer
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Betty McCollum
Member of Congress