

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

November 19, 2025

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue Northwest
Washington, D.C., 20500

Dear President Trump,

We write to you regarding our concerns about escalating tensions and settler violence in the West Bank. Two years ago, we expressed similar concerns to President Biden.¹ Today, instability in the West Bank has grown and increased instances of extremist settler violence continue to endanger innocent lives, fuel incitement and retaliatory action, undermine Israel's security, and threaten efforts to pursue peace in the region.² The Netanyahu government's lack of action to address extreme settler violence emboldens Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, and other terrorist groups, and builds resentment in the West Bank, while putting increased pressure on the fragile ceasefire agreement in Gaza that your Administration secured. More must be done to stop settler violence and ensure that those who perpetrate acts of violence against civilians in the West Bank are not allowed to operate with impunity.

According to publicly available reports, instances of settler violence against civilians occur “on a near daily basis throughout the West Bank,” yet very few perpetrators are held accountable.³ According to Israeli military data, during the first six months of this year, there was a “surge” in settler attacks on Palestinian civilians, and reports of violent incidents have continued since.⁴ These attacks include killings, physical assaults, destruction of property—including homes, vehicles, and agricultural lands—forced evictions, unlawful detentions, death threats, and large-scale intimidation. During one such attack in July 2025 near the town of Sanjil, a Palestinian-American citizen from Florida, Sayfollah Musallet, was killed after being beaten by extremist settlers, including an extremist settler who was previously sanctioned by the U.S. government—sanctions imposed by the Biden administration that were lifted by your administration. Despite U.S. Ambassador to Israel Mike Huckabee calling for “accountability” and “an aggressive” investigation into this “criminal and terrorist act,” there has been no comprehensive investigation to date and no perpetrators identified have been held accountable and brought to justice.⁵ This is

¹ Letter from Sen. Cory Booker, Rep. Daniel Goldman to President Joseph R. Biden (Nov. 16, 2023), https://www.booker.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/booker_goldman_letter_on_settler_violence1.pdf.

² Patrick Kingsley, Fatima Abdul Karim, & Natan Odenheimer, *Extremists are carrying out one of the most violent campaigns against Palestinian villages since the U.N. began keeping records*, THE NEW YORK TIMES (Aug. 14, 2025), <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/08/14/world/middleeast/west-bank-israel-settler-attacks.html>.

³ TOI Staff, *Settlers said to injure several Palestinians, torch property in overnight attacks*, THE TIMES OF ISRAEL (Aug. 15, 2025), <https://www.timesofisrael.com/settlers-said-to-injure-several-palestinians-torch-property-in-overnight-attacks/>.

⁴ Patrick Kingsley, Fatima Abdul Karim, & Natan Odenheimer, *Extremists are carrying out one of the most violent campaigns against Palestinian villages since the U.N. began keeping records*, THE NEW YORK TIMES (Aug. 14, 2025), <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/08/14/world/middleeast/west-bank-israel-settler-attacks.html>.

unacceptable in the case of any American killed abroad, and we urge you to do more to seek justice for Mr. Musallet and his family.

The number of violent attacks—those on Palestinian agricultural lands, which are relied on for livelihoods—have spiked during this year’s harvest season.⁶ For example:

- In early September 2025, the IDF and Israeli police confirmed reports of armed settlers attacking Palestinian residents of Khallet al-Daba, a village in the West Bank, with pepper spray, sticks, and sharp tools, such as knives. Fourteen civilians were seriously injured in the attack, including a three-month-old infant and an elderly couple.⁷ Injuries included fractures, head trauma, bruising, lacerations, and eye sensitivity from pepper spray. As of the date of this letter, no arrests have been made.
- In October 2025, it was reported that dozens of settlers set fire to homes and olive groves in the West Bank village of Mukhmas, injuring civilians.
- In late October 2025, disturbing videos and images emerged of settler attacks on Palestinian olive pickers and their fields across the West Bank.⁸ One such attack near Ramallah left an elderly Palestinian woman in the intensive care unit (ICU) having suffered a brain hemorrhage after being beaten by one of the Israelis.⁹
- In early November, Israeli settlers attacked a group of Palestinian villagers, activists, and journalists near the Palestinian village of Beita, including two Reuters employees.¹⁰

This vigilante violence is not isolated. It is systemic and aims to impede a viable two-state solution. It is consistent with broader systemic efforts to approve illegal expansion of settlements, demolitions of Palestinian homes and structures, and annexation of the West Bank, including Prime Minister Netanyahu’s most recent actions regarding the controversial E1 settlement project.¹¹ Taken together, these actions by Prime Minister Netanyahu’s governing coalition increase instability in the West Bank, risk the safety of Palestinian and Israeli civilians,

⁵ Ephrat Livni, *Huckabee Calls Death of Palestinian-American in West Bank ‘Terrorism,’* THE NEW YORK TIMES (July 15, 2025), <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/07/15/world/middleeast/huckabee-west-bank-musallet-killing.html>.

⁶ Patrick Kingsley, Fatima Abdul Karim, & Natan Odenheimer, *Extremists are carrying out one of the most violent campaigns against Palestinian villages since the U.N. began keeping records,* THE NEW YORK TIMES (Aug. 14, 2025), <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/08/14/world/middleeast/west-bank-israel-settler-attacks.html>.

⁷ Charlie Summers, *Armed settlers said to injure at least 14 Palestinians, including infant, elderly couple,* THE TIMES OF ISRAEL (Sep. 5, 2025), <https://www.timesofisrael.com/armed-settlers-injure-at-least-14-palestinians-including-infant-elderly-couple/>.

⁸ Nurit Yohanan, *Several injured, homes and cars set ablaze in several settler attacks in West Bank,* THE TIMES OF ISRAEL (Oct. 25, 2025), <https://www.timesofisrael.com/three-cars-set-ablaze-in-overnight-settler-attack-on-west-banks-al-mughayyir/>.

⁹ Tom Bennett & Alaa Daraghme, *Palestinian woman in hospital after being clubbed by masked Israeli settler,* BBC (Oct. 21, 2025), <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cx20p0qx50no>.

¹⁰ Reuters Staff, *Israeli settlers attack Palestinians, journalists at West Bank olive harvest, witnesses say,* REUTERS (Nov. 9, 2025), <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/israeli-settlers-attack-palestinians-journalists-west-bank-olive-harvest-2025-11-08/>.

¹¹ Barack Ravid, *Vance says he was “insulted” by Knesset vote on West Bank annexation,* AXIOS (Oct. 23, 2025), <https://www.axios.com/2025/10/23/vance-israel-annexation-west-bank-knesset-vote>.

threaten Israel's security, and isolate Israel further, while undermining peace efforts in the region. This includes the Abraham Accords, a critical achievement during your first Administration. As a result, we urge your administration to speak out against settlement expansion, demand accountability for settler violence, and continue to publicly oppose annexation.

As the only two members of Congress who were in Israel on October 7, 2023, and who steadfastly support the special U.S.-Israel relationship and a secure and just future for both Israelis and Palestinians, we continue to believe that a two-state solution is the only viable option that affirms and protects Israel's right to exist as a democratic, Jewish state and ensures the Palestinian people's right to human dignity, prosperity, self-determination, and a state of their own. Unchecked extremist settler violence and *de facto* or *de jure* settlement expansion threatens the very seeds of trust and cooperation needed to make progress toward this goal, which is fundamental to an enduring peace in the region.

As a result, we urge you to press the Israeli government to take significant action to prevent settler violence, hold perpetrators accountable, seek justice for the victims of violent crimes already committed, and ensure the safety and security of civilians in the West Bank. If the Israeli government does not take such significant action, we urge you to reinstate sanctions against those determined to be responsible for these violent and destabilizing crimes.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan Goldman', written over a horizontal line.

Dan Goldman
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Cory A. Booker', written over a horizontal line.

Cory A. Booker
United States Senator

Cc: Secretary Marco Rubio
Ambassador Mike Huckabee