



November 14, 2021

The Hon. _____
U.S. House of Representatives
The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Alex Padilla
United States Senate
The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

**Re: Protecting the Human Rights of Palestinian Children
And Opposing Illegal Israeli Settlements in the West Bank**

Dear Members of Congress,

As your constituent, **I am writing to you regarding two issues** concerning the United States relationship with the nation of Israel.

The first issue is Israeli military prosecution of between 500 and 700 children each year in military courts that lack fundamental fair trial rights and protections. Organizations such as UNICEF, Human Rights Watch, and B'Tselem, have found that ill-treatment of Palestinian children by Israeli forces is widespread, systematic, and institutionalized from the moment a child is detained in the Israeli military detention system. The United States Department of State and the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child have also raised serious concerns about the mistreatment of Palestinian children in Israeli military custody.

Therefore, I urge support for H.R. 2590 and any similar Senate legislation, which would prohibit U.S. military aid from being used by foreign armed forces to support the military detention, interrogation, abuse, or ill-treatment of children in violation of international humanitarian law. It would be a first step in protecting the rights of all children, including Palestinians. Please support the rights of Palestinian children.

The second issue concerns ongoing Israeli settlement expansion on Palestinian land that represents the Israeli right's efforts to entrench permanent, undemocratic control over the West Bank through a cycle of demolitions and construction. The United States cannot in any way tolerate or empower this destructive and unlawful behavior. It undermines hopes for peace and the values of justice, equality and democracy on which the US-Israel relationship is founded.

I call on Congress and the Administration to show leadership -- and to support both Palestinian rights and Israel's democracy -- by explicitly calling this out for what it is: a direct violation of international law.

I call on Congress and President Joe Biden to forcefully express to the Israeli government the objections of the United States to that government's disregard of the human rights of Palestinian children and to their continuing to allow the expansion of illegal Israeli settlements in the West Bank.

Sincerely,

(Print Name) _____

Address _____

CC: President Joe Biden