

Joint Statement Calling on Biden Administration to Condemn Israeli government plans to Forcibly Displace Palestinians in Occupied East Jerusalem

The undersigned grassroots and advocacy organizations stand in solidarity with the Palestinian residents of occupied East Jerusalem currently at risk of losing their homes and call on the Biden administration to immediately and publicly condemn the Israeli government's plans to forcibly displace 1,550 Palestinians from their homes in the Sheikh Jarrah and Al-Bustan neighborhoods of occupied East Jerusalem and to exert the utmost diplomatic pressure to prevent these potential [war crimes](#) from taking place.

The situation is particularly urgent in Sheikh Jarrah, where the Israeli government plans to forcibly displace hundreds of Palestinians from homes they have lived in for generations, in order to allow Israeli settlers to move in, an act which is illegal under international humanitarian law. On May 7, the United Nations urged the Israeli government to halt these plans, stating that the forced displacement [could amount to war crimes](#). This takes place in the broader context of Israel's ongoing policy to forcibly remove Palestinians from their homes through eviction, home demolition, and displacement, with the express intent of pushing Palestinians out of Jerusalem in order to create and [maintain a Jewish majority](#) and supremacy in the city.

Furthermore, we are deeply disturbed by the violence and use of force that Israeli police in East Jerusalem are employing against Palestinian residents, protestors, and worshippers during the last ten days of Ramadan. Over the past week, residents and activists leading sit-ins, vigils, and protests against the forced displacement in Sheikh Jarrah have been met with overwhelming [violence](#) and [force](#) from Israeli police and settlers, including a police officer [kneeling on a protestor's neck](#) while he shouts that he is being suffocated, and [attacking worshippers at Al Aqsa Mosque](#), Islam's third holiest site. Protestors have also faced harassment from Israeli officials, including an incident in which the Deputy Mayor of Jerusalem [told a Palestinian activist it was "a pity" that he wasn't shot in the head](#).

Israeli state violence is, of course, not limited to Jerusalem. We are horrified by Israel's use of disproportionate and deadly force against Palestinians in Gaza which have already resulted in the killings of dozens of Palestinians, including children. This comes within the context of Israel's 14 year illegal blockade on Gaza which has created an open air prison with severe shortages of life-saving medicines, food, electricity, and clean water, making life unsafe and unbearable. We call on the Biden administration to condemn this violence and address its root causes: Israeli blockade and occupation.

The Biden administration has repeatedly stated that it intends to center its foreign policy around respect for human rights and international law. We therefore call on the administration to uphold international law and act in accordance with the urgency of the moment to prevent the Israeli government's forced displacement of thousands of Palestinians.

We support the asks articulated in a [letter](#) led by Congresswoman Marie Newman (IL-03) and signed by 24 members of Congress calling on the Biden administration to:

1. Immediately send the strongest possible diplomatic message to Israel to desist from its plans to demolish Palestinian homes in Al-Bustan and evict Palestinians from their homes in Sheikh Jarrah;
2. Publicly reiterate that U.S. policy opposes Israel's demolition of Palestinian homes in East Jerusalem and that East Jerusalem is Occupied Territory under international law;
3. Undertake an expeditious review of previous Congressional requests that the State Department investigate whether Israel's demolition of Palestinian homes with U.S. weapons violates the Arms Export Control Act (AECA);
4. If Israel proceeds with its plans to demolish Palestinian homes in Al-Bustan and evict Palestinian residents from their homes in Sheikh Jarrah, then the U.S. Embassy to Israel should send observers to document Israel's forced displacement of Palestinians, including details on the military units involved in these operations and the usage of any U.S. weapons for purposes of oversight and accountability regarding Leahy Law and AECA violations.

Sincerely,

350.org

About Face: Veterans Against the War

Action Center on Race & the Economy (ACRE)

Adalah Justice Project

African Public Affairs Committee

Alianza Americas

Alliance for Water Justice in Palestine

American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC)

American Friends Service Committee

Americans for Democracy & Human Rights in Bahrain (ADHRB)

American Muslims for Palestine

Arab American Association of NY

Arab American Civic Council

Arab American Institute

Arab Resource & Organizing Center (AROC)

Armenian-American Action Network

Ayada Leads

Borderlands for Equity

Center for International Policy

CHANGE (Center for Health and Gender Equity)

Chicago Faith Coalition on Middle East Policy

Christian Peacemaker Teams

Churches for Middle East Peace

CODEPINK

Common Defense

Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, US Provinces

Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)

Council on American-Islamic Relations, Washington Chapter
Demand Progress
Democratic Socialists of America
Detention Watch Network
Disciples Palestine Israel Network (DPIN)
Dissenters
Dream Defenders
Engage Action
Empowering Pacific Islander Communities (EPIC)
Eyewitness Palestine
Fellowship of Reconciliation
The Feminist Front
For All
Freedom Forward
Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)
Friends of Sabeel North America
Grassroots Global Justice Alliance
Grassroots International
Historians for Peace and Democracy
ICNA Council for Social Justice
IfNotNow
Indivisible Illinois
International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN)
Islamic Cultural Center of Fresno
Islamophobia Studies Center
Jetpac Resource Center
Jewish Voice for Peace Action
Jews for Racial And Economic Justice (JFREJ)
Just Foreign Policy
Justice Democrats
Justice for Muslims Collective
MADRE
Massachusetts Peace Action
MediaJustice
Middle East Children's Alliance (MECA)
Migrant Roots Media
MoveOn
MPower Change
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA (NCC)
National Iranian American Council
National Network for Immigrant & Refugee Rights
National Writers Union
New Internationalism Project at Institute for Policy Studies

Nonviolence International
OD Action
Our Revolution
Palestine Advocacy Project
Palestine Legal
Palestinian Christian Alliance for Peace
Pax Christi USA
Peace Action
Presente.org
Progressive Democrats of America
Project Blueprint
Project South
Rachel Corrie Foundation for Peace and Justice
RAICES
ReThinking Foreign Policy
Revolutionary Love Project
Revolving Door Project
Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights
RootsAction.org
School of the Americas Watch (SOA Watch)
Security Policy Reform Institute (SPRI)
Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ)
Solidaire Action Fund
South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT)
Sunrise Movement
Tree of Life Educational Fund
Tunisian United Network
UltraViolet Action
Unitarian Universalists for Justice in the Middle East
United Church of Christ Palestine-Israel Network
United for Peace and Justice
The United Methodist Church - General Board of Church and Society
United We Dream
US Campaign for Palestinian Rights
U.S. Labor Against Racism and War
Veterans For Peace
Voice for Refuge Action Fund
Voices for Justice in Palestine
WESPAC Foundation, Inc.
Win Without War
Working Families Party
World BEYOND War