

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

August 5, 2026

The Honorable Marco Rubio
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20451

The Honorable Scott Bessent
Secretary of the Treasury
Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20220

The Honorable Todd Blanche
Acting Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Secretary Rubio, Secretary Bessent, and Acting Attorney General Blanche:

We write regarding unprecedented Israeli settler violence and land seizures in the West Bank, and the threat they pose to Palestinians and Americans. In September 2025, President Trump said, “I will not allow Israel to annex the West Bank. Nope, I will not allow it. It’s not going to happen.”¹ In practice, violent settlers and the Netanyahu government have proceeded to rapidly extend Israeli control over civilian populations in the region. The administration should use all the diplomatic and economic tools at its disposal, including restoring sanctions, to end this violence and expansion of settlements in the West Bank and open independent investigations into the nine cases of Americans killed since January 2022.

On his first day in office, President Trump rescinded sanctions that had been implemented starting in February 2024 on more than 30 individuals and organizations credibly associated with killing, attacking, and displacing Palestinians in the West Bank.² In 2025, there were 1,836 attacks on Palestinian communities and properties – the highest number since record-keeping began.³ This year, the UN reports that the, “current pace of settler attacks causing casualties or property damage” in the West Bank “is higher than in any year on record.”⁴ Settlers have repeatedly attacked civilians and homes in Turmus Ayya, a Palestinian community where 70% of

¹ CNN, “Trump says he won’t allow Israel to annex West Bank,” Aditi Sangal, Helen Regan, and Billy Stockwell, September 26, 2025, <https://www.cnn.com/2025/09/25/politics/trump-says-he-wont-allow-israel-to-annex-west-bank>.

² White House, “Initial Rescissions of Harmful Executive Orders and Actions,” January 20, 2025, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/initial-rescissions-of-harmful-executive-orders-and-actions/>; Politico, “Treasury terminates sanctions on Israeli settlers in West Bank,” Michael Stratford, January 24, 2025, <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/01/24/treasury-terminates-sanctions-israeli-settlers-00200479>; U.S. Department of the Treasury, “Termination of Emergency With Respect to the Situation in the West Bank; West Bank-related Designation Removals,” January 24, 2025, <https://ofac.treasury.gov/recent-actions/20250124>.

³ United Nations, “West Bank Monthly Snapshot - Casualties, Property Damage and Displacement | June 2026,” July 27, 2026, <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/west-bank-monthly-snapshot-casualties-property-damage-and-displacement-june-2026>.

residents are US citizens.⁵ This included the burning of the Tuffaha family house – belonging to U.S. citizens, including residents of Massachusetts and Washington - in April.⁶ Since January 1, 2025, 303 Palestinians have reportedly been killed in the West Bank by Israeli soldiers and settlers, including 70 children.⁷ Recent clashes between settlers, Israeli security forces, and local residents of Nablus have threatened to escalate the violence even further.⁸

The climate of unchecked hostility toward Palestinian civilians has spilled over to Americans who have been killed, injured, and detained without cause in the West Bank. Since the start of the Trump administration, four Americans have been killed by Israeli settlers and security forces in the West Bank.⁹ This brings the total to nine Americans killed in the West Bank since 2022.¹⁰ It includes Amer Rabee, a 14 year-old killed by Israeli soldiers, and three 17-year olds, Tawfic Abdel Jabbar, Mohammad Ahmed Mohammad Khmour, and Sayfollah (“Saif”) Musallet, who were either beaten to death by settlers or shot to death in separate incidents.¹¹ Earlier this year, a 19-year old American, Nasrallah Abu Siyam, was killed after being shot by an Israeli settler.¹² Shireen Abu Akleh, an American journalist, and Aysenur Ezgi Eygi, a 26 year-old from Seattle, were both shot in the head by Israeli soldiers.¹³ In January 2022, Israeli soldiers gagged and bound Omar Assad, a 78 year-old Palestinian American man, who died of a heart attack after

⁴ United Nations, “Noon briefing of 11 June 2026”, June 11, 2026, <https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/highlight/2026-06-11.html>.

⁵ Data on file with the Office of U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren; Le Monde, “The West Bank village of Palestine's forgotten Americans,” Sandra Mehl, October 5, 2025, https://www.lemonde.fr/en/m-le-mag/article/2025/10/05/the-west-bank-village-of-palestine-s-forgotten-americans_6746112_117.html ; Times of Israel, “Settlers reportedly beat Palestinian woman, raid several West Bank towns,” Times of Israel Staff, Nurit Yohanan, and Jeremy Sharon, April 19, 2026, <https://www.timesofisrael.com/settlers-reportedly-beat-palestinian-woman-raid-several-west-bank-towns/amp/>.

⁶ *Id*; Data on file with the Office of U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren.

⁷ United Nations, “West Bank Monthly Snapshot - Casualties, Property Damage and Displacement | June 2026,” July 27, 2026, <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/west-bank-monthly-snapshot-casualties-property-damage-and-displacement-june-2026>.

⁸ Associated Press, “Northern West Bank in lockdown as clashes rock villages and Israel deploys troops in Nablus,” Majdi Mohammed, Aref Tufaha, Erin Cunningham et. al., July 24, 2026, <https://apnews.com/article/israel-palestinians-west-bank-violence-settlers-c9394defe87c7529655d9b23cab58cdc>.

⁹ Letter from U.S. Senators Chris Van Hollen, Elizabeth Warren, Patti Murray, et. al., to Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Attorney General Pamela Bondi, and U.S. Ambassador to Israel Michael Huckabee, March 5, 2026, https://www.vanhollen.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/letter_to_sec_rubio_on_accountability_for_uscitizendeathsinthewestbank.pdf

¹⁰ *Id*.

¹¹ *Id*; New York Times, “Israeli Forces Said They Killed a ‘Terrorist.’ He Was 14 Years Old,” Isabel Kershner and Fatima AbdulKarim, May 27, 2025, <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/05/27/world/middleeast/west-bank-israel-military-killing.html>; New York Times, “Two Palestinians Are Killed in a West Bank Clash With Israeli Settlers,” Aaron Boxerman and Fatima AbdulKarim, July 12, 2025, <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/07/12/world/middleeast/palestinians-killed-by-israelis-in-west-bank.html>; The Washington Post, “An American Teen Was Killed in the West Bank. His Family Wants Answers,” Louisa Loveluck and Sufian Taha., January 26, 2024, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2024/01/26/tawfic-jabbar-american-palestinian-teenager/>.

¹² New York Times, “Palestinian-American Teenager Killed in West Bank Is Laid to Rest,” Adam Rasgon and Fatima AbdulKarim, February 20, 2026, <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/02/20/world/middleeast/palestinian-american-teenager-killed-west-bank.html>.

¹³ PBS News, “Israel says its military likely shot and killed American activist ‘indirectly and unintentionally’”, Jack Jeffrey, September 10, 2024, <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/world/israel-says-its-military-likely-shot-and-killed-american-activist-indirectly-and-unintentionally>.

being left on the ground in the cold.¹⁴ The U.S. Department of Justice has the authority to independently investigate the killing of Americans abroad, but has reportedly not opened investigations into any of the killings since 2025.¹⁵ Israel has yet to indict a single person involved in these incidents.¹⁶

After President Trump's removal of U.S. sanctions, the Netanyahu government has continued to allow and enable settler violence and Palestinian displacement to proceed with impunity. The Israeli government has not issued a jail sentence for a single Israeli settler responsible for the death of a Palestinian in the West Bank in six years.¹⁷ A settler who was previously a subject of U.S. sanctions, Yinon Levi, went on to kill Awdah Hathaleen, a nonviolent peace activist and Palestinian father of three, in broad daylight outside his home, only months after the sanctions were rescinded.¹⁸

This targeted violence, intimidation of Palestinian communities, and forced displacement is part of a broader pattern of de facto "annexation measures" by the Netanyahu government that more than 600 former IDF commanders warn "fuel Jewish terrorism against Palestinians in the territories, constituting an assault with far-reaching implications for the security, character, and future of the State of Israel."²⁰ In 2025, the Israeli government authorized more West Bank settlements than in the previous ten years combined.²¹

We are similarly troubled by seemingly arbitrary detentions in the West Bank that have swept up multiple Americans. The State Department has previously characterized these detentions as the Israeli military's practice of "indefinite[ly]" detaining Palestinians often "without charge,

¹⁴ The Washington Post, "Autopsy Finds Palestinian American Man Died of Heart Attack after Being Bound and Gagged by Israeli Soldiers," Steve Hendrix, January 26, 2022, www.washingtonpost.com/world/2022/01/26/us-citizendied-heart-attack-israeli-custody/.

¹⁵ Times of Israel, "Families of 4 Palestinian-Americans killed in the West Bank lose hope for justice," AP and TOI Staff, July 26, 2025, <https://www.timesofisrael.com/families-of-palestinian-americans-killed-in-the-west-bank-lose-hope-for-justice/>; The Guardian, "'A club nobody wanted to be a part of': Families of Americans killed by Israel face uphill climb to justice," Alice Sperry, October 6, 2025, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/oct/06/americans-killed-israel-military>.

¹⁶ *Id.*

¹⁷ Le Monde, "In the West Bank, Israeli settlers who commit crimes enjoy total impunity," Isabelle Mandraud, April 17, 2026, https://www.lemonde.fr/en/international/article/2026/04/17/in-the-west-bank-israeli-settlers-who-commit-crimes-enjoy-total-impunity_6752548_4.html.

¹⁸ Associated Press, "Prosecutors plan to charge an Israeli settler with killing a Palestinian activist in the West Bank," Sam Metz, February 16, 2026, <https://apnews.com/article/israel-palestinians-west-bank-settlers-86621a794e0d3828b946c753bf08a4ea>; U.S. Department of the Treasury, "Termination of Emergency With Respect to the Situation in the West Bank; West Bank-related Designation Removals," January 24, 2025, <https://ofac.treasury.gov/recent-actions/20250124>.

¹⁹ *Id.*; Amnesty International, "Erasing anything Palestinian," June 10, 2026, pp.19-20, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/research/2026/06/israel-west-bank-ethnic-cleansing/>.

²⁰ The Jerusalem Post, "Ex-defense officials: IDF W. Bank chief failing to stop Jewish violence; IDF: We need gov't help," Yonah Jeremy Bob, March 16 2026, <https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-890171>; Commanders for Israel's Security, "Security Alert: The Government's De Facto Annexation Decisions Endangers Israel's Security," May 8, 2026, <https://en.cis.org.il/2026/05/08/security-alert-the-governments-de-facto-annexation-decisions-endangers-israels-security/>.

²¹ Peace Now, "Summary of a Year of Terror, Expulsion, and Annexation — 2025 in the Settlements," March 2, 2026, <https://peacenow.org.il/en/summary-of-2025-in-settlements>.

trial, [or] information regarding the accusations against them.”²² In June 2026, Sama Safi, a 20 year-old American, was detained in a series of raids targeting students at Birzeit University that also included a member of the Palestinian women’s soccer team, Natalie Abudayyeh.²³ Safi suffers from a medical condition that “can trigger severe fevers, inflammation, and debilitating pain” but advocate groups report that Israeli authorities had interrupted her access to critical medications that help stabilize the condition for several days.²⁴ This followed the detention of Mohammed Ibrahim, a 15 year-old American from Florida, detained during a visit to his family in the West Bank in February 2025.²⁵ He was released nine months later, having reportedly “lost a third of his body weight”, “suffered a scabies skin infection a few months into his detention”, and “denied adequate food and medical care”.²⁶ The administration should work quickly to secure Ms. Safi’s immediate release, continued access to medical care, and push for the end of unjust and arbitrary detentions in the territory.

Settlers have also increasingly attacked religious minorities in the West Bank.²⁷ Taybeh, “the last entirely Christian village in the West Bank”, was burned and attacked multiple times by Israeli settlers in July 2025, including the grounds of its historic 5th century church.²⁸ Despite a visit by Ambassador Huckabee, who called the violence “an act of terror” and vowed to “do everything possible” to ensure that those responsible were “found and prosecuted,” no one has been arrested in connection with these crimes.²⁹ Since last summer, Palestinian Christians in Taybeh faced fresh waves of violent attacks from Israeli settlers once again in March and June of 2026.³⁰

²² U.S. Department of State, “West Bank and Gaza 2023 Human Rights Report,” *report*, p. 18, <https://www.state.gov/reports/2023-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/israel-west-bank-and-gaza/west-bank-and-gaza>.

²³ The Guardian, “Palestinian American woman held without charge by Israeli military,” Alice Speri, June 13, 2026, <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2026/jun/13/palestinian-held-sama-safi-israeli-military>; The Times of Israel, “Detention extended for Palestinian women’s soccer player arrested for ‘throwing objects’,” AFP, June 3, 2026, <https://www.timesofisrael.com/detention-extended-for-palestinian-womens-soccer-player-arrested-for-throwing-objects/>.

²⁴ Newsweek, “US Citizen Held by Israeli Military for 3 Weeks Without Charges,” Jesus Mesa, June 26, 2026, <https://www.newsweek.com/us-citizen-held-by-israeli-military-3-weeks-no-charges-12127154>.

²⁵ BBC, “Palestinian-US teen freed after nine months in Israeli jail,” Jon Donnison and Tom McArthur, November 27, 2025, <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c0edw348pewo>.

²⁶ Letter from U.S. Senators Peter Welch, Chris Van Hollen, Elizabeth Warren, et. al. to Secretary of State Marco Rubio, February 16, 2026, https://www.welch.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Letter-to-Sec-Rubio-re-Mohammed-Ibrahim-Accountability-FINAL_Signatures.pdf; NPR, “A Palestinian-American teen freed from Israeli prison comes home needing urgent care,” Kat Lonsdorf, February 29, 2025, <https://www.npr.org/2025/11/29/nx-s1-5624465/a-palestinian-american-teen-freed-from-israeli-prison-comes-home-needing-urgent-care>; The Guardian, “US lawmakers demand accountability for Palestinian-American teen detained in Israel,” Joseph Gedeon, February 18, 2026, <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2026/feb/18/us-palestinian-teen-israel-congress-letter>.

²⁷ The Guardian, “A strategy ‘to make life intolerable’: Israeli settlers are driving Christians out of West Bank,” Julian Borger, April 5, 2026, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2026/apr/05/israeli-settlers-driving-christians-out-west-bank>.

²⁸ Vatican News, “Wave of settler violence targets Palestinian Christian village,” Joseph Tulloch, July 25, 2025, <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/world/news/2025-07/ihab-hassan-taybeh-christian-village-settler-violence.html>.

²⁹ *Id.*; Associated Press, “US ambassador Huckabee visits West Bank village after Israeli settlers attack ancient church” July 19, 2025, <https://newsroom.ap.org/editorial-photos-videos/detail?itemid=6e4882789460401fbc95e56cbae1bbd&mediatype=video>.

³⁰ Washington Post, “As Christians are attacked in Israel, government shows little concern,” Gerry Shih, July 5, 2026, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2026/07/05/jewish-nationalists-are-attacking-christians-israel/>; Vatican News, “Ihab Hassan: ‘No accountability’ over attacks on Palestinian Christians,” May 9, 2026, <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/church/news/2026-05/ihab-hassan-interview-save-west-bank-christians->

In short, Israeli security forces and settlers have attacked and displaced Palestinians in the West Bank at an unprecedented rate since the Trump administration took office, and they have detained or killed multiple U.S. citizens. We have concerns that the administration's deference to the Netanyahu government has contributed to a climate of impunity and unbridled violence towards civilian populations and religious minorities. Ending sanctions against those individuals and entities associated with West Bank extremism sent a clear message: settlers can use violent and deadly force with impunity against Palestinians and Americans while seizing land, the Israeli government can enable and expand its military occupation, and no one will face consequences. We call on the administration to restore meaningful costs on settlers and organizations that threaten Palestinian and Americans' safety, to oppose annexation efforts in the West Bank, and provide written answers to the following questions by August 19, 2025:

1. Has the United States Department of Justice (DOJ) opened investigations into the killings of the following individuals?
 - a. Nasrallah Abu Siyam
 - b. Amer Mohammad Saada Rabee
 - c. Khamis Ayyad
 - d. Sayfollah ("Saif") Musallet
 - e. Tawfic Abdel Jabbar
 - f. Mohammad Ahmed Mohammad Khmour
 - g. Omar Assad
 - h. Aysenur Ezgi Eygi
2. Please share a confidential copy of the DOJ's investigation into the killing of Shireen Abu Akleh.
3. How many individuals and entities who were formerly designated under EO 14115³¹ have been involved in attacks on Palestinian communities since the rescission of sanctions on January 20, 2025?
4. How many individuals and entities who were formerly designated under EO 14115³² have been involved in the establishment of settlements or outposts in the West Bank since the rescission of sanctions on January 20, 2025?
5. How many Americans have been held in detention by the Israeli military since January 20, 2025?
 - a. What was the average duration of detention for these individuals?
 - b. How many Americans are currently detained by the Israeli military?

settlers.html; The Catholic Herald, "Israeli settler violence threatens last entirely Christian town in West Bank," Thomas Colsy, June 12, 2026, <https://thecatholicherald.com/article/israeli-settler-violence-threatens-last-entirely-christian-town-in-west-bank>.

³¹ U.S. Department of the Treasury, "Termination of Emergency With Respect to the Situation in the West Bank; West Bank-related Designation Removals," January 24, 2025, <https://ofac.treasury.gov/recent-actions/20250124>.

³² *Id.*

- c. What is the State Department's policy on whether American civilians should be tried in Israeli military courts?
- 6. How many Americans have been attacked by settlers in the West Bank since January 20, 2025?
 - a. Have any individuals been indicted or arrested in relation to these attacks on Americans? Please provide a list that details the date of the attack, the status of any investigation into the attack, the status of any State Department casework related to the attack, and an update on whether any individual has been charged with the associated crime.
 - b. What is the State Department's assessment of the status of Israeli investigations into the deaths of:
 - i. Nasrallah Abu Siyam
 - ii. Amer Mohammad Saada Rabee
 - iii. Khamis Ayyad
 - iv. Sayfollah ("Saif") Musallet
 - v. Tawfic Abdel Jabbar
 - vi. Mohammad Ahmed Mohammad Khmour
 - vii. Omar Assad
 - viii. Aysenur Ezgi Eygi
- 7. What is the State Department's assessment of the number of settler attacks on US citizens' property in the West Bank since January 20, 2025?
 - a. Have any individuals been indicted or arrested in relation to these attacks? Please provide a list that details the date of the attack, the status of any investigation into the attack, the status of any State Department casework related to the attack, and an update on whether any individual has been charged with the associated crime.
- 8. What is the State Department's protocol for responding to and investigating allegations of destruction of U.S. citizens' property in the West Bank? Please provide a copy of any policy or guidance related to this protocol.
- 9. Has Treasury assessed the financial impact of the sanctions delistings on entities associated with extremist settlers since January 2025? If so, please provide a copy of any such assessment.
- 10. Has the State Department collected information on the number of settler attacks on American and their property in the West Bank? Please provide copies of any records related to this matter.

CC:
The Honorable Mike Huckabee
U.S. Ambassador to Israel
US Embassy Jerusalem
14 David Flusser
Jerusalem 9378322, Israel

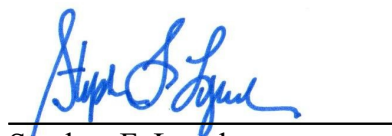
Sincerely,



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



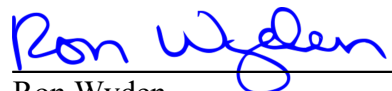
Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



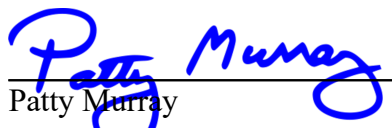
Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



Peter Welch
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



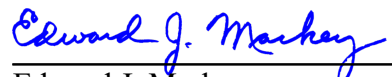
Patty Murray
United States Senator



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Lori Trahan
Member of Congress



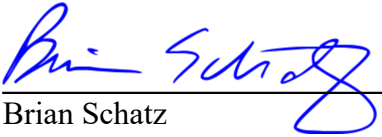
Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress



Jack Reed
United States Senator



Brian Schatz
United States Senator



Jake Auchincloss
Member of Congress



Katherine M. Clark
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



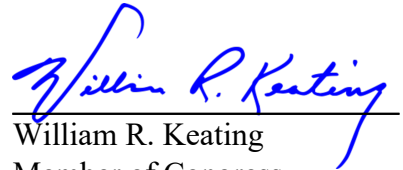
Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress



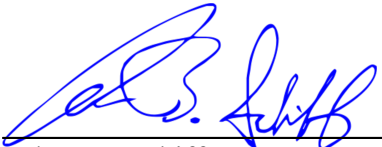
Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Tim Kaine
United States Senator



William R. Keating
Member of Congress



Adam B. Schiff
United States Senator