

Phone to Action Text

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On June 30th, Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez joined by 13 colleagues from the House sent a [letter](#) to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo urging him to condemn the Israeli annexation of the West Bank.

The letter stated, "Members of Congress should not be expected to support an undemocratic system in which Israel would permanently rule over a Palestinian people denied self-determination or equal rights." Ultimately, U.S. military funds should not support Israel's annexation of Palestinian lands. "There is no question that the acre by acre de facto annexation since 1967 for the purpose of new Israeli settlements is a blatant attempt to suppress Palestinian identity and nationhood."

Enough is enough. We cannot be complicit in the annexation of the West Bank and simultaneously deny Palestinians the right to live in their own state or as equal citizens of Israel. Separate was struck down as unequal by the U.S. The Supreme Court over half a century ago, and Aparthide was rightfully rejected by the international community when it was the law of the land in South Africa.

Letter to Congress:

As your constituent, I am deeply concerned over the planned annexation of occupied Palestinian territory by the government of Israel. Congress must clearly denounce these plans and ensure that no U.S. taxpayer money supports such efforts.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's plans are in direct violation of international law. By seeking to change the status of land that is internationally recognized as occupied, Netanyahu is clearly hoping to deny Palestinians the right to a state of their own and keep them permanently occupied and under the total control of the Israeli military. Moreover, Netanyahu has said that Palestinians living on annexed territory would not be granted rights that are equal to those enjoyed by Israelis. In short, two people-Israelis and Palestinians-will be living under Israeli control yet treated very differently because of their ethnicity. Should this come to pass, we can only call it for what it is: Aparthid.

Leading human rights experts warn that annexing parts of the West Bank will perpetuate and entrench human rights violations against the Palestinian people, including limitations on freedom of movement, mass expropriation of privately-owned Palestinian land, further expansion of illegal settlements, continued demolitions of Palestinian homes, and a loss of Palestinian control over their natural resources.

The United States must remain committed to a future in which both Israelis and Palestinians live in peace.. We cannot support policies that preclude such a future, especially when our own nation is still confronting the ugly legacy of discrimination. This is why we urge you as our representative to explicitly

state your opposition to annexation and support efforts aimed at ensuring that U.S. funding never supports such activities.

Sincerely,