

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4709

October 10, 2024

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden,

I write to express my deep concern over escalating violence in the West Bank and the continued expansion of Israeli settlements. In order to bring us closer to a path to peace in the region and the ultimate goal of a two-state solution, I urge you to impose further sanctions on individuals and entities destabilizing the West Bank.

The only way out of the vicious cycle of regional conflict is by forming a coalition with the U.S., Israel, Saudi Arabia, U.A.E., Jordan, Qatar, and other Arab states as a deterrence to Iran. This coalition will never form without a future for the Palestinian people. While I understand Israel's motivations to respond to the threat from Iran and their proxies in the region, I am adamantly opposed to Israel's approach to the West Bank.

Israel's actions in the West Bank threaten peace and stability in the region and have no support under international law. Prime Minister Netanyahu, Finance Minister Smotrich, and National Security Minister Ben-Gvir have promoted rapid Israeli settlement expansion, including retroactive legalization of outposts, and tacitly have enabled settler violence.

I support your issuance and implementation of Executive Order (E.O.) 14115, which imposes sanctions on individuals and entities undermining peace, security, and stability in the West Bank.¹ Your administration has rightly used this Executive Order to crack down on some of the worst perpetrators of violence, both Israeli and Palestinian, including Palestinian terrorist group Lions' Den.²

I urge your administration to more forcefully leverage E.O. 14115, especially regarding entities such as Amana, in order to discourage Israeli settlement expansion and settler violence. Amana has provided critical support for the settlement movement for decades and is responsible for the

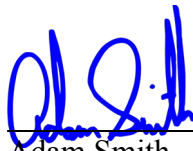
¹ "Executive Order on Imposing Certain Sanctions on Persons Undermining Peace, Security, and Stability in the West Bank," The White House, February 1, 2024, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2024/02/01/executive-order-on-imposing-certain-sanctions-on-persons-undermining-peace-security-and-stability-in-the-west-bank/>.

² Simon Lewis, "US Imposes Sanctions on Palestinian Group Lions' Den over West Bank Violence," Reuters, June 6, 2024, <https://www.reuters.com/world/us-imposes-sanctions-palestinian-group-lions-den-over-west-bank-violence-2024-06-06/>.

construction of 83 of the 146 settlements in the West Bank.³ Notably, Amana is also funding the proliferation of now-sanctioned outposts considered illegal under Israeli law,⁴ including the expansion of pastoral farms in the West Bank that facilitate the rapid seizure of large swaths of Palestinian land.⁵ These outposts and farms are particularly associated with extremist settler violence.⁶

The U.S. imposing additional sanctions under E.O. 14115 would send a strong signal to the Israeli government that unilateral and often violent seizure of Palestinian lands, whether by the Israeli government or Israeli citizens, cannot continue with impunity. I appreciate your administration's attention to these matters.

Sincerely,



Adam Smith
Member of Congress

³ Kim Legziel, "Mounting International Sanctions against Israeli Settler Group Could Be Earth-Shattering," Haaretz, July 6, 2024, <https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/2024-07-06/ty-article-magazine/.highlight/mounting-international-sanctions-against-israeli-settler-group-could-be-earth-shattering/00000190-853d-dc2c-a9fa-e57d20fa0000>.

⁴ Jake Tacchi et al., "Israeli Outpost Settlers Rapidly Seizing West Bank Land," BBC, September 3, 2024, <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c207j6wy332o>; Louis Imbert, "In the West Bank, Pastoral Farms Are a New Tool for Settler Expansion," Le Monde, March 31, 2023, https://www.lemonde.fr/en/international/article/2023/03/31/in-the-west-bank-pastoral-farms-are-a-new-tool-for-settler-expansion_6021340_4.html#; "West Bank-Related Designations; Transnational Criminal Organizations Designation," Office of Foreign Assets Control, July 11, 2024, <https://ofac.treasury.gov/recent-actions/20240711>.

⁵ Imbert, "Pastoral Farms Are a New Tool," Le Monde.

⁶ Tacchi et al., "Israeli Outpost Settlers," BBC.