



Rt. Hon Joan Ryan MP

House of Commons

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His Excellency Mr Mark Regev
Ambassador of Israel
Embassy of Israel
2 Palace Green
London W8 4QB

Our Ref: JR12631

Dear Ambassador

I write to you regarding Khan al-Ahmar. I understand and respect the fact that this issue has been extensively reviewed by the Israeli judicial system. Moreover, Israel's responsibility under the Oslo Accords for issues of planning in Area C is clear, and these decisions must be taken in accordance with the law and correct procedure.

However, with so few Palestinian permits being granted, I do not see how it is justifiable for Israel to carry out the demolition of an entire encampment, regardless of what alternatives have been arranged. Forcing people to move is something that should only be carried out in the most extreme of situations. It is my judgment that Khan al-Ahmar does not meet that criteria.

You will know that LFI have campaigned for a number of years on the issue of support for people-to-people projects. Those who support a genuine two-state solution to this conflict must do all we can to bring together the two peoples in the spirit of reconciliation, coexistence and peace. The demolition of Khan al-Ahmar will damage this prospect and further the cycle of despair that many on both sides feel trapped in.

I am conscious that Israel's actions in the West Bank are seen by some as the only barrier to peace. I reject that view entirely. This week I organised a debate on the issue of incitement in the Palestinian curriculum, an issue which troubles me deeply and to which I believe far too little attention is paid. This spring, LFI launched our 'Pledge for Gaza', which underlined the fact that Hamas's ongoing rearmament and terror attacks poses a severe threat to the prospects of peace. In January, I led a debate on the proscription of Hezbollah, calling on the government to once and for all take action against an organisation whose raison d'être is to destroy the state of Israel. I will continue to remain a strong friend of Israel and make the case for it and a two-state solution in parliament.



Recognising these facts does not, however, excuse Israel's planned actions in Khan al-Ahmar. I know that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu intervened in the case of Susiya and I would urge him to do so in this case.

I will never refrain from calling out the barriers to peace regardless of who is responsible. It is incumbent on all of us who long for peace in the Middle East to condemn any action that makes the prospect of it less likely. It is in that spirit that I write to you today.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Joan'.

Rt. Hon Joan Ryan MP
Member of Parliament for Enfield North
Chair, Labour Friends of Israel