August 18, 2021

The Honorable Joe Neguse
1419 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Request for an in-person meeting during the House's summer break

Dear Congressman Neguse:

In recognition of and appreciation for your work on human rights, residents of your congressional district – participants in a broad cross-section of justice, faith, human rights and other organizations – write to share two concerns: to request an in-person meeting with you; to encourage you to sign on to HR2590, introduced by Rep. McCollum.

Our concerns:

1. You may not be aware of: increasing violence and forced evictions on the part of Israeli security and defense forces as well as Israeli settlers; reports earlier this year by two highly respected human rights organizations, Israel's B'tselem and Human Rights Watch, labeling Israel's occupation and other policies and practices as apartheid; and the increasing criticism within the U.S. of Israel's brutal occupation of the Palestinian territory, including persons of every faith.
2. Given the growing crisis and the changing attitude of Americans toward Israel, even in Congress, we hope you will express your deep commitment to human rights and the dignity of every human being by acting to hold Israel accountable for its use of U.S. taxpayers' billions of dollars.

We respectfully ask that you to sign on to HR2590, now supported by 29 State Reps from 20 states in only three months since its introduction.

We know that there are a significant number of Christian Zionists in the state who would not question policies that violate the civil rights of the Palestinian population nor Israel's occupation of their land. While this mindset may prevail in certain districts to the south, the majority of Democratic voters in District 2 do not partake in this sentiment and are more likely to mirror the majority of Democrats who would pressure Israeli as opposed to Palestinian leadership.

The first major poll of Jewish voters since President Biden was elected, conducted on behalf of the non-partisan Jewish Electorate Institute (JEI), produced some interesting results regarding relationships with Israel and U.S. funding. 25% believe that Israel is an apartheid state; 34% believe that Israel's treatment of Palestinians is similar to racism in the U.S.

Text: H.R.2590
"To promote and protect the human rights of Palestinians living under Israeli military occupation and to ensure that United States taxpayer funds are not used by the Government of Israel to support the military detention of Palestinian children, the unlawful seizure, appropriation, and destruction of Palestinian property and forcible transfer of civilians in the West Bank, or further annexation of Palestinian land in violation of international law."

Still, beyond politics, this is a matter of values, affecting the health and wholeness, the freedom, human rights and dignity of all those living in the State of Israel, East Jerusalem, Gaza and the West Bank – Jews, Muslims, Christians and others.

We look forward to meeting with you to discuss House Resolution 2590 and other Congressional conversations that address Israel's misuse of U.S. funds.

Representing the organizations listed below,

Sergio Atallah

Sergio Atallah - sergioatallah@yahoo.com
Board of Center for Freedom and Justice, Colorado
Lafayette, Colorado

Jeff Wright

Jeff Wright - jeffwright103@gmail.com
Retired pastor, Heart of the Rockies Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Board of Global Ministries of the United Church of Christ
Fort Collins, Colorado

Organization Endorsements

Center for Freedom and Justice, Colorado
Colorado Palestine Club
Democratic Socialists of America, Fort Collins
First Congregational Church, UCC of Boulder
Foothills Unitarian Universalists for Justice in the Middle East, Fort Collins
Friends of Sabeel Colorado, a Christian Voice for Peace
Jewish Voice for Peace, Denver-Boulder Chapter
The Lemon Tree, Boulder
Veterans for Peace Chapter 120 Boulder
Rocky Mountain Peace and Justice Center
Unitarian Universalists, Palestine Group – Boulder
Islamic Center of Boulder