SAMPLE LETTER TO LEGISLATORS REGARDING ISRAELI SETTLEMENT CONSTRUCTION

Look up your Senators’ and Representatives’ contact information:

<https://www.opencongress.org/people/zipcodelookup>

Dear Senator/Representative\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

As a person of faith, I am concerned about the lack of progress in peacemaking in Israel and Palestine. Years of negotiations have produced some preliminary agreement, but a final agreement has not been produced.

An important impediment to a peace agreement is the ongoing construction of settlements on land that was to have been a Palestinian state. As Israel continues to colonize more Palestinian land, how can they negotiate in good faith?

As more settlements are constructed, they fragment the land in the West Bank, as:

* roads are constructed move Israelis to and from the settlements
* a separation wall is built to protect these settlements
* soldiers patrol the roads and the separation wall, shooting when Palestinians get within 300 feet of the separation barrier

Israeli settlements are an impediment to peace. The US supports Israel with $3 billion/year in military aid, which helps Israel maintain its occupation. Although US foreign policy, as articulated by every President and Secretary of State, is firmly against Israel’s construction of Israeli-only settlements in the West Bank and Gaza, the US supports Israel’s settlement policy by funding its military and providing weapons.

It makes no sense for the US to try to broker peace and demand a halt to settlement construction while we fund the military that protects the settlements, builds the barriers and attacks the Palestinians who live nearby.

I urge you to introduce and vote for legislation that makes US aid to Israel contingent on Israel halting its settlement construction, both new settlements and expansion of existing settlements, in the West Bank and East Jerusalem.