



MEMO: COUNTERING DESTABILIZING ISRAELI ACTIONS

Dylan Williams, Senior Vice President for Policy and Strategy

June 12, 2023

Israel's right-wing government is openly undertaking an aggressive campaign of settlement expansion, demolitions, forced removal of protected persons, abetting settler violence and other acts of annexation in violation of Palestinian human rights and other international law.

Additionally, recent settlement approvals, the partial repeal of the 2005 Disengagement Law and subsequent green-lighting by Israeli officials of settlement in the area of the illegal outpost of Homesh violate the Netanyahu government's February 2023 commitments to the United States and other parties in the Aqaba Joint Communique, as well as the key 2004 Bush-Sharon letters underpinning the US approach to Israeli settlement activity in the West Bank.

In light of these provocative steps taken with open disregard for the US-Israel relationship, past agreements, and the work of the United States and other parties to enhance stability, the Biden administration has a responsibility to defend US interests in security, human rights and international order by taking additional action to deter further such Israeli moves. At a minimum, the United States should:

- Publicly restore the longstanding, bipartisan US position that settlements are inconsistent with international law by expressly revoking the "Pompeo Doctrine";
- Reinforce US differentiation between Israel and the West Bank through steps like restoring the bipartisan customs guidance on accurate labeling of West Bank goods, and making clear that binational research and related cooperation programs may not fund projects based in the settlements;
- Investigate whether any US-origin military equipment has been used in connection with recent acts toward annexation like evictions, demolitions, forced relocations, settler violence and the construction of civilian infrastructure designed to benefit settlers and — if so — determine whether such use constitutes a violation of US arms export control and/or foreign aid law;
- Support European donor countries' claims for compensation from Israel for Israeli demolition of Palestinian schools and other foreign aid-funded structures; and
- Make clear that the United States will not block accurate, appropriate criticism in international fora, including in the United Nations Security Council, of evictions, demolitions, forced relocations, settler violence, the construction of civilian infrastructure designed to benefit settlers and other acts of annexation.