Dear xxxxx,

I would like to draw your attention to the urgent situation in the northern Jordan Valley in Palestine. Israel has announced its intention to carry out mass demolitions to the homes of 300 Palestinians in the Al Maleh area and to force the residents to leave the area.

All of those affected survive by herding their animals and would no longer be able to sustain their families if they are driven from their land. All the land in question is either privately owned by Palestinians or owned by the Catholic Church.

Full details are available at <https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/1.822205> and <http://maannews.com/Content.aspx?id=779461> (where copies of the notices served can be seen).

I request that you take immediate action to prevent the forced removal of these families from their land. Please could you contact the Foreign Secretary and request that he contacts his counterpart in the Israeli Government to request the cessation of plans to remove Palestinians from the Al Maleh area.

Those affected have engaged a lawyer to prevent the demolitions, but experience tells us that this may not be enough. I believe that international pressure may be the only effective option here.

A member of Brighton and Hove Palestine Solidarity Campaign, Sarah Cobham, has visited the Jordan Valley on several occasions over the last 11 years and has spent time staying with families in the Al Maleh area. She has contacted Rashid Khudairi, coordinator of the local Palestinian NGO which supports communities in the area, Jordan Valley Solidarity.

He is working with the villagers and has said to us:

*“The occupation authorities have been harassing and attacking Palestinians in the northern Jordan Valley for years, to pressurise them to leave their ancestral land. These communities have been denied access to water, electricity, roads, health care and education. Their homes have been repeatedly demolished and military training is frequently carried out next to their homes and on their land. Israel is now taking this ethnic cleansing one step further. The situation is very urgent and we are calling on all our friends around the world to support us.”*

After speaking to Mr Khudairi, Ms Cobham said:

*“The evacuation notices ordered all those affected to leave the area by 9th November. They have all remained in their homes as they fear that if they leave they will never be able to return and they have nowhere else to go. I have stayed with these families and seen the frequent harassment they receive from both the Israeli army and Israeli settlers. They live a really hard life and are there because they have nowhere else to go. They are in immediate danger and need us to take action urgently.”*

Please could you advise us of any action you take, as we will convey this back to the community, and we know it will be a great source of strength to them.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

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