

مقاتلون من أجل السلام  
לוחמים לשלום  
Combatants for Peace



Only by joining forces  
will we be able to end  
the cycle of violence

To  
Her Excellency Dr. Angela Merkel  
Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany  
Bundeskanzleramt  
Willy-Brandt-Straße 1  
DE-10557 Berlin, Germany

Jerusalem, 02. October 2018

Dear Mrs. Chancellor, Dr. Angela Merkel,  
dear Mr. Heiko Maas,

we warmly welcome You to Jerusalem! We, **Israelis and Palestinians, all former fighters in the endless wars our region has gone through**, would like to address you **with urgency** regarding the village of Khan Al Ahmar. We call upon You to **also listen to us**, a vivid civil society of Israelis and Palestinians, who work for equality and justice for our both peoples on the ground.

While You, honorable Chancellor, will be dining with Israeli Premier Benjamin Netanyahu and consult within the Israeli Knesset, You should know that at the same time, **there are people living in constant fear of losing their homes**. In the next days, a village for hundreds of Palestinian Bedouins and a school for more than 100 students, will be demolished and the people forcefully evicted - just half an hour from Jerusalem.

**Khan al Ahmar** has become a **symbol of hope** in the civil, non-violent resistance against Israeli settlement policies. We, members of Combatants for Peace, together with many internationals, and other Israeli and Palestinian civil society organizations, have been present in Khan Al Ahmar since weeks, around the clock, **to protect the village from demolition**.

It is even more than “just” demolishing the homes of dozens of families - **it creates another hard fact on the ground**, and the Israeli settlement policy, **illegal by international law**, would move a big step forward, if the demolition takes place. The occupied territories would be basically split in two parts, if the village gets demolished and the surrounding settlements get extended.

With appreciation, we have followed the statement of the European Union to immediately stop the demolition order for Khan Al Ahmar, but we are in times, where lose statements do not help anymore.

We see Germany as an influential friend of our Jewish-Israeli society, and as a friend of our Palestinian people. Therefore, we call upon the Federal Republic of Germany, to convince the Israeli government to stop the demolition of the village of Khan al Ahmar. This is in the interest of all of us who believe in coexistence and peace for Palestinians and Israelis alike. History has taught us, violence leads to nothing more than even more desperation, frustration and more violence.

We invite You to meet with us and listen to our personal stories. We have served in the Israeli army and we were fighters in the violent Palestinian resistance. We all understood that **this endless circle of destruction does not lead to anything**. We all went through a deep personal transformation which formed the basis for our movement “**Combatants for Peace**”. Today, it is **the largest, joint Israeli-Palestinian peace movement**. We work towards another reality in our region every day, where Israelis and Palestinians live **side by side in peace and dignity**, with **equal rights** for all. Clearly, the occupation is the biggest obstacle in achieving that. Please help us to make our dream come true!

In November, 19<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup>, representatives of Combatants for Peace will come to Berlin. We would love to get in touch with You and convince You **that there is another way**. A way of hope for Israelis and Palestinians alike.

With our highest esteem,  
In peace from Israel and Palestine,

Combatants for Peace

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