I Care About Peace, I Care about Susiya

How to Call Congress and get them to stop the demolition of the Palestinian Village of Susya
Your Goals:

• To speak directly to their “Senior Staffer for Foreign Policy”

• Ask him or her to:
  - To Call the State Department and the Israeli Embassy on your behalf, and
  - To schedule a meeting with Rebuilding Alliance’s team at their office, Jun 22-26

• And have the Senior Staffer call you back!
What you will need:

• Phone number to their office in Washington DC
• A phone and about 10-15 minutes for your call
• A follow-up email to send right after
First, find their number

www.House.gov, enter your zip code
www.Senate.gov, enter your state
Place your call

• When the receptionist answers, ask to speak to the Senior Staffer for Foreign Policy

• Before your are transferred, ask for the senior staffer's name and write it down.
If you reach their voicemail

Leave a message:

• My name is ______ and I am a constituent. Please call me back at _<your phone number>_.

• My message is urgent. I need your help, on my behalf, to keep the Palestinian village of Susya safe from demolition in the West Bank

• Please call to the US State Dept. and the Israeli Embassy on my behalf. Please say you Care about Peace and you care about Susiya. Please make your call as soon as possible, and call me back.

• In addition, Please schedule a meeting with Israeli and US peace activists the week of June 22 - 26 at your office in D.C.
When they answer, or call you back

• Start by introducing yourself:
  - My name is ______ and I am a constituent from ____<city, state>____.
Explain **Why** you are calling

- My call is urgent.
- **I need your help** to save a peaceful village in Area C of the West Bank threatened by demolition.
Tell them more

• Have you heard about this case?
• Susya is a small village of about 340 people located in the South Hebron Hills. Israel declared their village an archaeological site, expelled them from their homes and built a nearby settlement by the same name. They moved to their agricultural land and now their homes are to be demolished again.
Israel’s High Courts Rulings

• On May 4, 2015, Israel’s High Court of Justice ruled to allow the Israeli army to demolish the village and expel the residents from the land they own, even before the high court hears an appeal on August 3.
• They said that it is because the buildings are built without permits, but building permits are rarely, if ever, issued to Palestinians living in Area C.
• No demolition order has ever been revoked.
On June 9, 2015, the High Court ruled to deny the right of Palestinian villages in the West Bank to plan their own communities.

Meanwhile, settlement expansion is increasing in the West Bank, against official US policy.
The Whole Town is to be Demolished

The bulldozers could arrive at any time!
I need your help to prevent the very likely demolition of homes, schools, and playgrounds in Susya Village.

Give them their day in court on August 3rd at Israel’s High Court.
How I know

- Israeli, Palestinian, and international peace groups have been visiting the village and showing solidarity with the villagers.
- The homes, schools, and playgrounds have been built by European and American donors.
- Peace groups including Rabbis for Human rights and the Villages Group, aid groups, and diplomats have put out a call to action.
• The villagers know that Israel listens to the United States when Members of Congress speak up.
On My Behalf…

• **Call the State Department** and ask them to call the Israeli government to request their full and immediate assurance that demolition orders will be frozen until the Aug. 3 appeals hearing.

• **Call the Embassy of Israel in Washington D.C.** to express concern and request full assurance there will be no demolitions.

• Tell them, you care about peace and you care about Susya.

• **Please do so as soon as possible**
This is important because...

• It is in the best interests of the United States to stand for a just process in this case.

• Our country stands for liberty and justice for all. We believe in the right of towns to plan their future, and the right of landowners to build on the land they own.

• Peace requires the fair rule of law for everyone, including Palestinians.

• Demolishing homes does not bring peace. It creates despair and fuels animosity.
Yes, I will email you a letter of request

- Take down their information. Ask them:
  - What is your email address?
  - What is your title?
  - Please spell your name for me once again
When will you get back to me?

- Write down the date, and expect your return call then.
Thank you very much for your assistance

- I look forward to your call on <date promised> or I’ll give you a call to touch base.
Add contact info to the template letter

• And email your letter to the Senior Staffer right away!
Mark your calendar

• To follow up on the date promised

• Then, spread the word

#SaveSusiya
#ICareAboutPeace
That’s it!

• Chances are, they’ll make the calls.
• Call us at the Rebuilding Alliance if you need help, and to let us know if you got through:
  (650) 325-4663
  contact@RebuildingAlliance.org
Thank you for helping #SaveSusya

Please ask your friends and family to do the same!