

Til medlemmernes evt. videre foranstaltning se vedlagt brev til Folketingets formand fra Mr. Avraham Burg, tidligere formand for det israelske parlament, Knesset, med en opfordring til at tilslutte sig en Pan-Europæisk modstand mod annekteringer på den israelske Vestbred.

Fra: Avraham Burg <avraham@avburg.org>

Dato: 23. februar 2021 kl. 10.35.27 CET

Til: Henrik Dam Kristensen <Henrik.Kristensen@ft.dk>

Emne: Request from Israeli Political Figures to Join Pan-European Initiative of MPs Against Annexation

Dear Mr. Henrik Dam Kristensen,

My name is Avraham Burg, and I am a former Speaker of Knesset (Israeli Parliament). I hope this email finds you well and that you and your family are healthy during this difficult time. Together with trusted colleagues listed below, I am reaching out to you with a heavy heart and great concern about the de facto annexation of the West Bank by Israel.

Over the summer, we reached out to MPs and MEPs from across Europe and across political parties to sign [a letter opposing de jure Israeli annexation](#) of West Bank territory. International pressure, including this letter, has been very effective in putting off de jure annexation.

I write to you now with a concern that is just as serious. While de jure annexation has been averted at present, de facto annexation is now proceeding at an alarming pace.

The past year, despite the corona pandemic, saw the highest number of demolitions of Palestinian homes in the area planned for annexation since 2016. Concurrently, the advancement of Israeli settlements has skyrocketed to levels not seen in nearly a decade. This includes the advancement of settlement construction in the highly strategic area of Givat HaMatos which has been a diplomatic red line to both the EU and the US due to its significance to the prospects of a two-state solution.

Thus, while the international community delayed formal annexation, on the ground the de facto annexation is speeding up.

As was evident earlier this year, forming close alliances between like-minded Israeli and European decision-makers is essential to revert this trend and foster new possibilities for a just peace in this troubled region.

With Biden in office, there are now new geopolitical opportunities for joint transatlantic efforts in promoting a rules-based global order not least in relation to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

In this light and due to the urgent need for renewed European efforts in opposing the deeply worrying trend of de facto annexation, we are organizing another initiative by MPs and MEPs from across Europe and across political parties.

I am attaching the text of the letter here.

So far, our initiative has gained the support of nearly 400 signatories from across political parties, including MPs and MEPs from S&D affiliated parties in Germany, the Netherlands, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Italy, Ireland, Luxembourg, Malta, Norway, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and the UK.

It would be our great honor if you would consider adding your name as well.

Please do let me know if you have any questions. If you agree to sign on to this initiative, you may let me know in response to this email.

With all best wishes, and many thanks,

Avraham Burg

Former Speaker of the Knesset and Head of the Jewish Agency

On behalf of:

Prof. Michael Ben-Yair, Former Attorney General of Israel and acting Supreme Court Judge

Prof. Naomi Chazan, Former Member and Deputy Speaker of Knesset

Zehava Galon, Former Member of Knesset and chair of Meretz Party