



# Keep Homes and Soccer Field Safe:

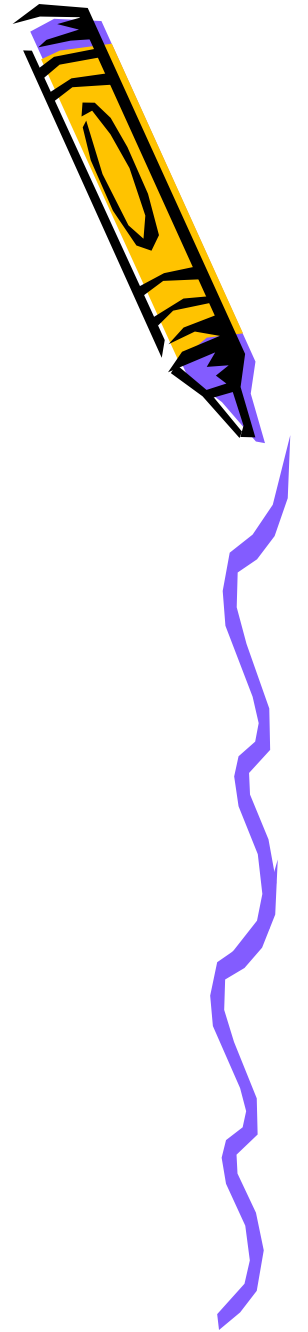
How to ask your Senators and Representative to  
**stop** Israeli Army bulldozers  
from threatening the Palestinian Village  
of Um Al Kheir



On Feb. 18th, the Israeli Army's 'Objections Committee' rejected their plea  
not to demolish two houses and soccer field

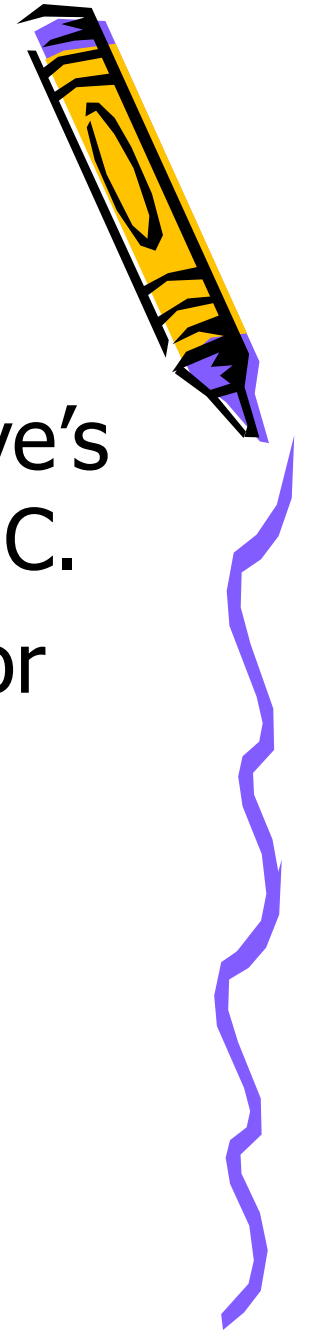
# Your Goal:

- To speak directly to their “Senior Staffer for Foreign Policy”
- Ask him or her to call the State Department and the Israeli Embassy *on your behalf*,
- and call you back!



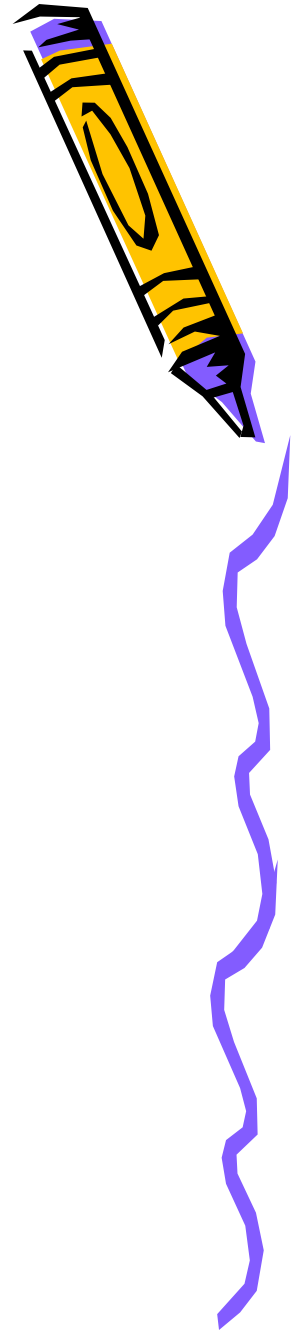
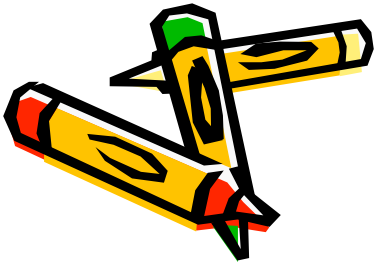
# What you will need:

- Phone number to your Representative's or Senator's office in Washington, D.C.
- A phone and about 10-15 minutes for your call.
- A follow-up email to send right after.



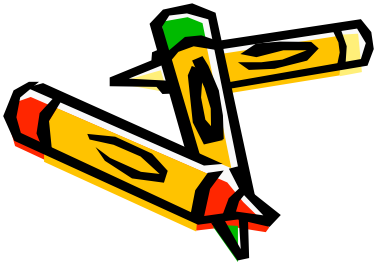
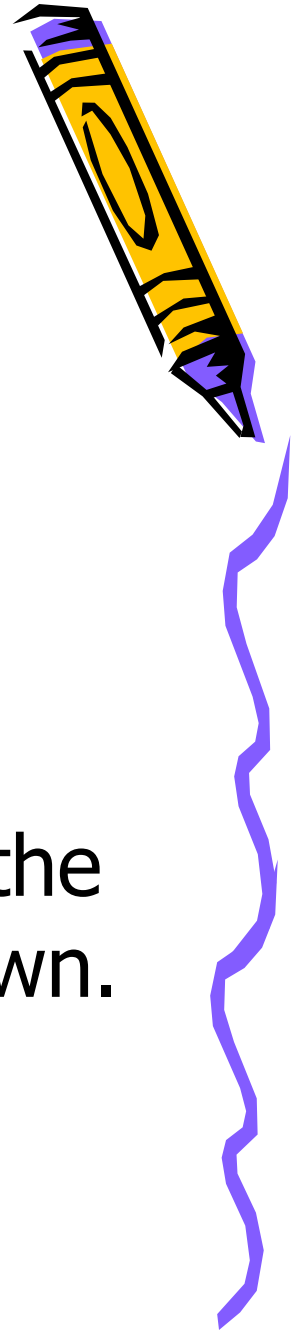
First, find the phone  
number of your  
Representative or Senator  
in Washington DC

Go to [https://www.govtrack.us/  
congress/members](https://www.govtrack.us/congress/members)



# Place your call

- When the receptionist answers, ask to speak to the Senior Staffer responsible for Foreign Policy.
- Before you are transferred, ask for the senior staffer's name and write it down.



# If you reach their voicemail

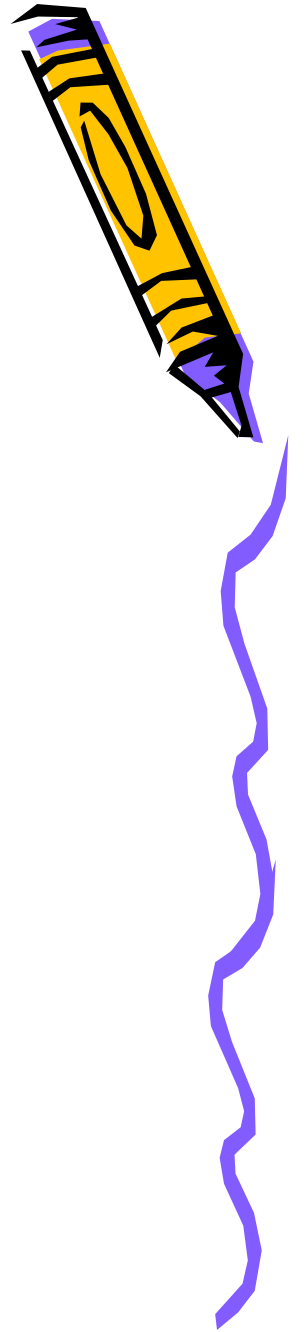
Leave a message:

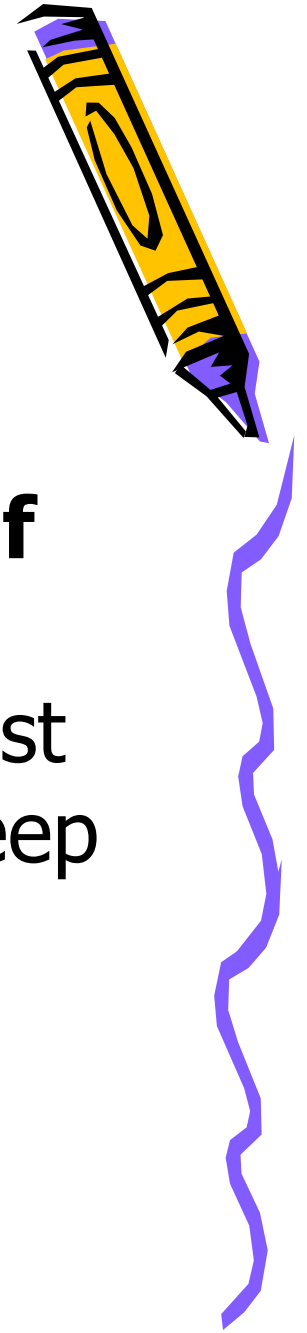
- My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am a constituent. Please call me back at <your phone number>.
- **My message is Urgent.** I need your assistance, on my behalf as your constituent, to keep a two homes and a soccer field safe from demolition in the West Bank.
- Americans help fund scholarships for this village's kindergarten.



# When they answer, or call you back

- Start by introducing yourself:
  - My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am a constituent from <your city>.





# Explain why you are calling

- My call is urgent.
- I need your help, **on my behalf as your constituent,** to buy enough time so that a just process can move forward to keep two homes and a soccer field standing in a West Bank Palestinian Village that deeply believes in peace.





# Tell them more

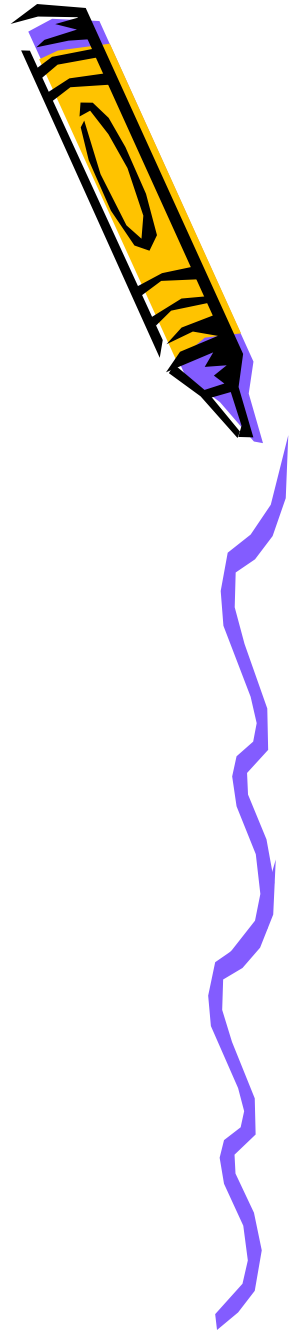
- This is about a West Bank Palestinian Village called Um Al Kheir (phonetically, Oom Al Hair)
- On Feb. 18th, the Israeli Army's 'Objections Committee' rejected their plea not to demolish two houses and soccer field... Israeli settlers are on those committees, not villagers
- The village's lawyer is scrambling to file petitions at the Israeli High Court.



I can send you pictures of what it looked like the last time homes in this village were demolished



I urgently need your help  
to buy enough time to  
freeze the demolition  
orders.



According to Hamed Qawasmeh of the U.N. Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights,

**“The two houses, built on land owned by the villagers with clear and uncontested title, provide shelter for 15 Palestinians including 11 children. The soccer field serves all children. This request is URGENT because the community fears that demolitions can take place as early as Sunday, before an objection can be filed.”**



## HISTORY:

- Your intervention is urgently requested because there is a pattern of demolitions occurring in this village. Starting on October 31st, 2008, the Israeli Army demolished family homes near the settlement of Karmel.
- Demolitions continued in 2010, 2011, and 2013, and most recently three demolitions on October 27th and 28, 2014,
- On November 1<sup>st</sup> the tents provided by the International Committee of the Red Cross and a Palestinian Ministry were destroyed. Tents were the only shelters for families made homeless in a very cold winter - and today another snow storm is on its way.



# How I know

- U.S. Consulate staff visited in Dec, 2014
- Groups I care about are working there. Americans are donating scholarships and help with rebuilding.
- UN Agencies helped construct the kindergarten. Israelis are helping too Comet-  
ME provided solar cells & with Israeli-Palestinian 'Villages Group'.
- Extra: Britain, Sweden, Germany, France, Australia, Russia, Italy, the USA and Canada delegations visited. Christian Peace Keeping Teams have been there, also Operation Dove and Shalom/Salam Trust (Great Britain). Israeli NGOs include Tayuush, Rabbis for Human Rights, Combatants for Peace, Peace Now, Center for Jewish NonViolence. Rebuilding Alliance hosts conference calls with Villagers, Peacemakers, Constituents, and Congressional Staff.



# This is important because

- It is in the best interest of the United States to stand for a just process in this case.
- Our country stands for liberty and justice for all.
- The peace process benefits from fair rule of law for Palestinians.
- Demolishing homes does not bring peace, it creates despair and potentially fuels animosity.



# "As your constituent"

- **This is urgent:** Please make two calls on my behalf, as your constituent:

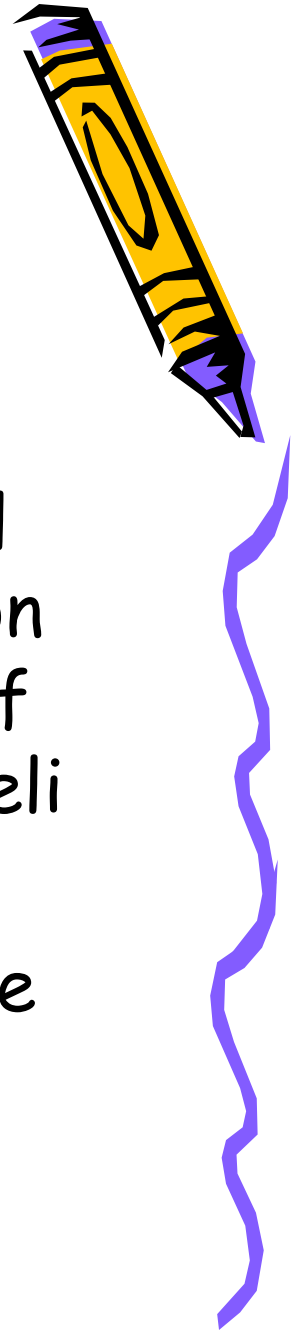
1. Call the U.S. State Department through your normal channels;
2. Call the Embassy of Israel in Washington D.C.





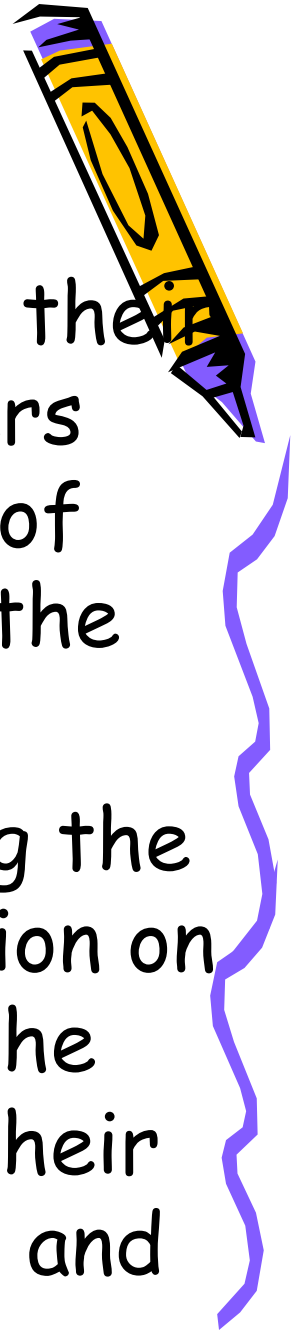
# Urge them to

- Press the State Department call the Israeli government to request their full and immediate assurance that demolition orders are frozen to allow the Village of Umm Al Khair time to petition the Israeli High Court.
- Let them know that we care about peace and we care Um Al Kheir.



# Call the Israeli Embassy

- Press the Israeli Embassy to get their assurance that demolition orders are frozen to allow the Village of Umm Al Khair time to petition the Israeli High Court.
- Express your concern regarding the lack of Palestinian representation on the Objections Committee of the IDF, the group that rejected their plea not to demolish the homes and soccer field.



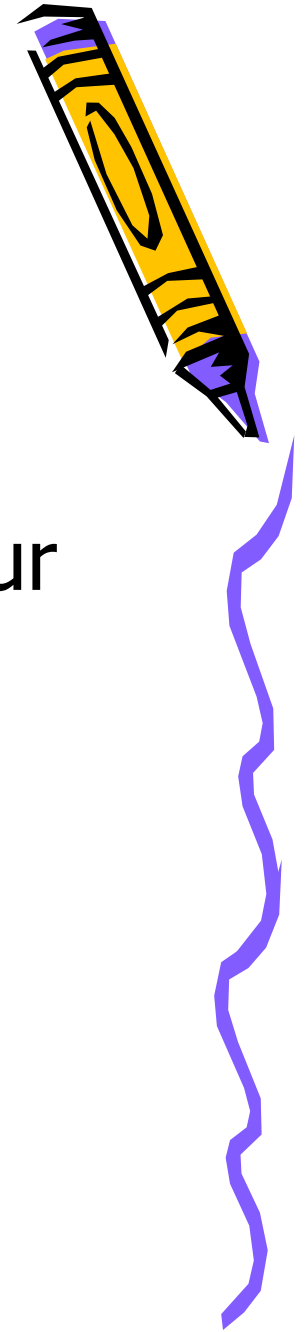
# Yes, I will email you a letter of request

- TAKE DOWN their INFORMATION:
- “What is your email address? What is your title? Please spell your name for me once again.”



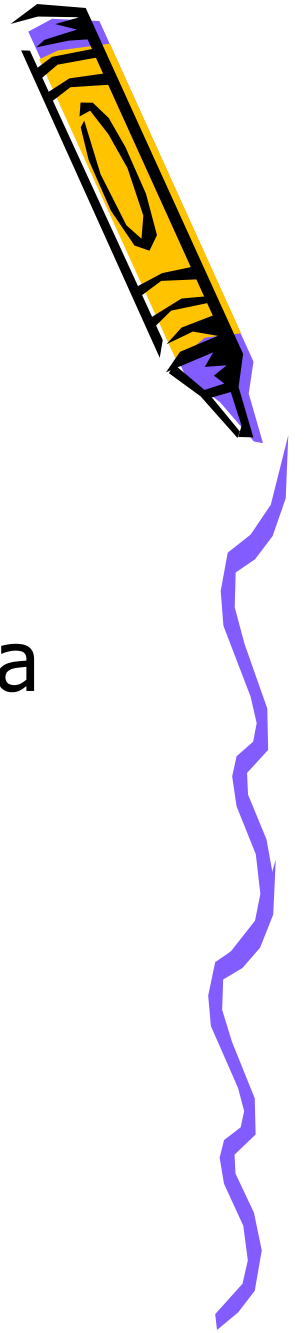
# When will you get back to me?

- Write down the date, and expect your return call then.



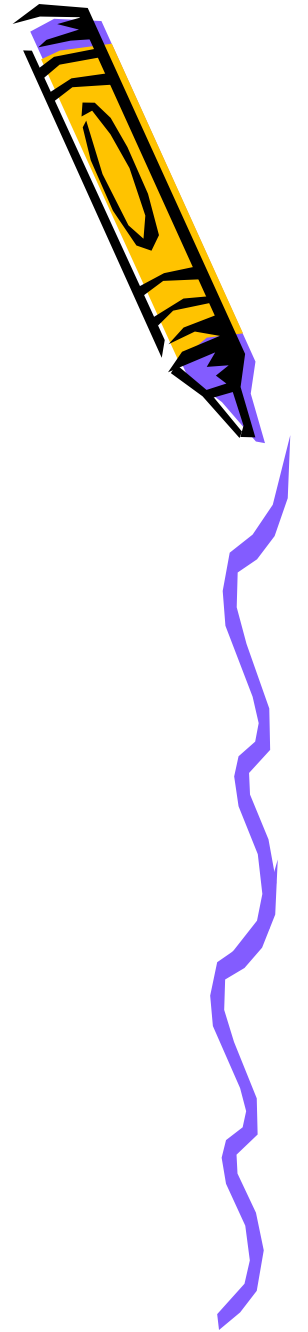
Thank you very much for  
your assistance

- “I look forward to your call on <date promised> or I’ll give you a call to touch base.”



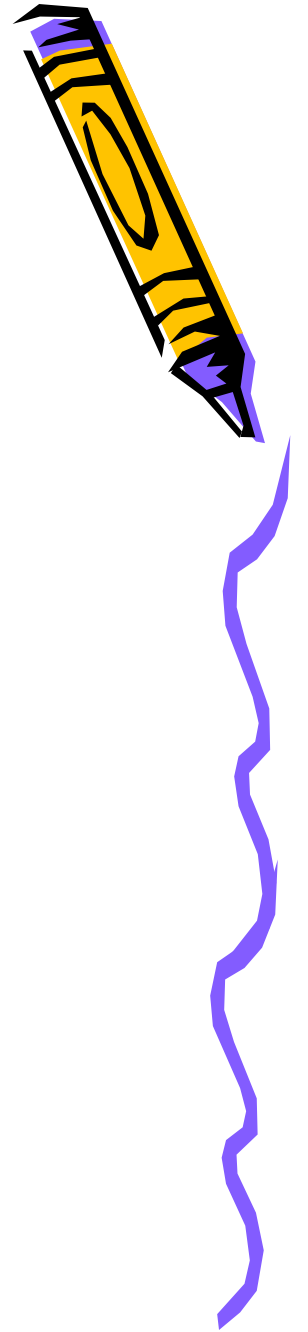
# Add Contact Info to the Template Letter

- And email your letter to the Senior Staffer right away!



# Mark your calendar

- To follow up on the date promised

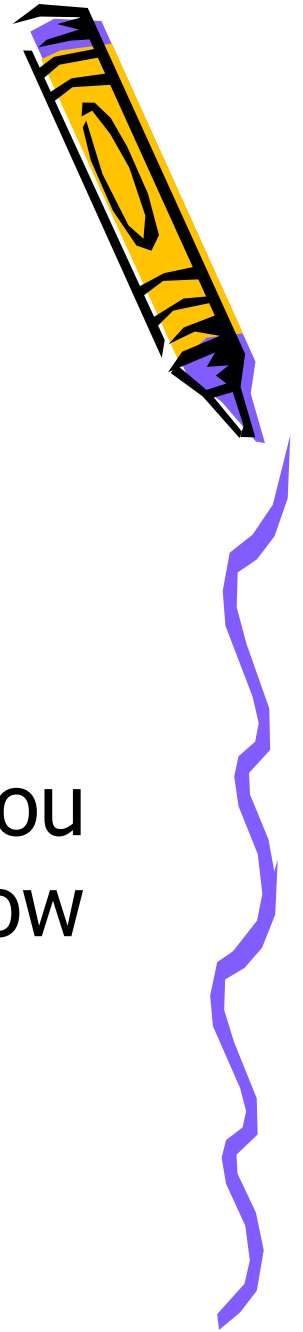


# That's it!

- Chances are, they'll make the calls.
- Call us at the Rebuilding Alliance if you need help, and email us to let us know what they said:

(650) 325-4663,

[Contact@RebuildingAlliance.org](mailto:Contact@RebuildingAlliance.org)





Thank you for helping keep  
Um Al Kheir's Homes and  
Soccer Field Safe

