

THE HILL

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GREG NASH

Manchin, Democrats reach turning point

Progressives angry, concerned Biden's agenda won't be fulfilled

By Hanna Trudo

• Democrats say they're at a turning point with Sen. Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.). Manchin's decision to make known his opposition to the party's sweeping voting rights legislation, a top priority for many Democrats, has raised serious questions about whether they can enact the bold agenda envisioned for President Biden's first term.

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Some Democrats wonder when Schumer will get tough with Manchin

By Alexander Bolton

• Sen. Joe Manchin's defiant statement that he will not vote for a sweeping election reform bill nor vote to get rid of the filibuster has progressive groups and some Democratic lawmakers wondering when Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) will get tough with the West Virginia Democrat.

Manchin is a member of Schumer's leadership team and Schumer has ➔ SEE **SCHUMER** PAGE 16



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مقاتلون من أجل السلام
COMBATANTS FOR PEACE

Combatants for Peace is an organization of ex-combatant Palestinian and Israeli, men and women, who have laid their weapons and rejected all means of violence. Together we work to end the occupation of Palestine, and bring peace, freedom and equality to all. Through our living example, we demonstrate that Palestinians and Israelis work, live and build community together.

SAVE SHEIKH JARRAH

STOP ILLEGAL EVICTIONS

Your constituents demand respect for human rights!

afcfp.org/save-sheikh-jarrah/



DEAR REPRESENTATIVES,

The neighborhood of Sheikh Jarrah in East Jerusalem is under threat. We are asking you to step in to save the neighborhood and protect the dozens of children, women and men who are at risk of losing their homes.

A settler organization called Nahalat Shim'on, which is rooted in the USA and incorporated in Delaware, is trying to evict the Palestinian families. The families are living in a compound that the Israeli courts ruled belong to the organization, due to a law from 1970, called "The Law on Legal and Administrative Affairs." The law states that Jews can go back to areas they owned before the 1948 war and reclaim their homes from 73 years ago, but Palestinians may not. The law of "Absentee property" from 1950 explicitly forbids Palestinians from any claim to repossession prior to 1948. Ironically, the settler organization hoping to claim the land has no actual ties to it; they simply bought the rights in 2004. This is an apartheid legal system, in which different laws and standards

are applied to different people based on race. As a result, Palestinian families are losing their homes.

The settler organization is targeting Sheikh Jarrah due to its proximity to the old city, less than one mile away, making it prime real estate in the city. By evicting the Palestinian families and replacing them with 200 apartments for Jewish settlers, the neighborhood would change completely. The consequence of this would be to make any possibility of a two-state solution an impossibility. By giving this critical part of East Jerusalem to settlers, it would make it nearly impossible to make East Jerusalem the capital of any future Palestinian state.

Sheikh Jarrah is not the only neighborhood, village or town at risk of eviction and dispossession. South of the old city, in a neighborhood called Silwan, families are also facing eviction. Ateret Cohanim, a religious radical settler movement, is trying to evict 80 Palestinian families due to the fact that

Jews lived there prior to 1948. Again, the organization is not affiliated in any way with the original Jewish tenants, and the affected Palestinians have no right to claim the property where their families lived prior to 1948.

The Israeli courts will likely decide whether or not to evict the families in the coming days. Back in 2009, it was Palestinian-Israeli nonviolent demonstrations that saved the neighborhood. Consequently, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton pressured the Israeli government to stop the evictions. There were no evictions in Sheikh Jarrah from 2009-2017. International pressure can turn the tide again, protecting these families from becoming homeless, and preserving any last possibility of a two-state solution.

We implore you, for the sake of humanity, human rights, and basic human dignity — please step in and do what is right.

Thank you.

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