October 20, 2023

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20050

Dear President Biden,

We write to thank you for your strong leadership during a tragic and dangerous moment in the Middle East. The horrific attack on October 7 against Israel by the terrorist organization Hamas took the lives of over 1,400 people, injured over 3,000 more, and resulted in the capture of nearly 200 people – including many American citizens – who are being held as hostages in Gaza. You have rightly condemned these actions as pure evil and expressed the United States’ steadfast support for our ally Israel in a moment of need and horror.

We stand with you in supporting Israel and are ready to provide whatever assistance the state and people of Israel need to defend themselves and to ensure that hostages return home and those who perpetrated these crimes against humanity are held accountable.

We are grateful as well for your clear statements regarding the fundamental importance of ensuring that the humanitarian needs of the civilian population of Gaza are met, and that all possible steps are being taken to ensure the safety of civilians and noncombatants in the Strip. Reportedly, more than 3,000 people have been killed and more than 9,700 wounded in Gaza, making it imperative that we act to prevent further loss of innocent lives. We agree with you that Israel’s response must be in accordance with international law and our shared democratic values.

We support the efforts that Secretary Blinken and your entire administration are making to ensure that the basic necessities of life for Gaza’s civilians are available, such as food, water, and medicine. In addition, we must enable those civilians and noncombatants who want to seek refuge temporarily in safe zones in southern Gaza to be given safe passage, and to ensure that they have the ability to return to their communities in Gaza when the war is over.

A commitment to Israel’s security and right to respond to terror is not incompatible with a commitment to the humanitarian needs of the innocent people of Gaza. Indeed, you are correctly charting a path that promotes American values and interests when we pursue both goals together.

We further support the efforts that your administration is undertaking to prevent the conflict from escalating to other fronts in this war, including to Israel’s north, as evidenced by the decision to deploy carrier strike groups to the Eastern Mediterranean. In particular, we urge your administration to work closely with Israel and regional partners to ensure stability on the West Bank and to prevent any escalation of violence in that region.

Even after this war between Israel and Hamas is over, the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians cannot be solved ultimately by any military means. When this crisis ends, your leadership together with regional partners...
will be needed to create a path to a sustainable future because, as you have so often pointed out, both Israelis and Palestinians deserve equal measures of freedom, security, opportunity and dignity. There will never be an end to the violence until that goal is achieved, and we know that the United States will have a significant role in the pursuit of the peaceful coexistence between Israel and its neighbors.

Thank you again for your steady and determined leadership at this critical time. We look forward to continuing to work with you in defense of Israel and, ultimately, in pursuit of peace in the Middle East.

Sincerely,

Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress

Dan Goldman  
Member of Congress

Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress

Valerie P. Foushee  
Member of Congress

Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress

Elissa Slotkin  
Member of Congress

Robert Garcia  
Member of Congress
Andrea Salinas
Member of Congress

Katie Porter
Member of Congress

Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress

Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress

Jennifer Wexton
Member of Congress

Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress

Nikema Williams
Member of Congress

Diana DeGette
Member of Congress

Colin Z. Allred
Member of Congress

Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress
James A. Himes  
Member of Congress

Jill Tokuda  
Member of Congress

Steny H. Hoyer  
Member of Congress

Joe Neguse  
Member of Congress

Bill Foster  
Member of Congress

Sylvia R. Garcia  
Member of Congress

Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress

Linda T. Sánchez  
Member of Congress

Adriano Espaillat  
Member of Congress

Jimmy Gomez  
Member of Congress
Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress

Melanie Stansbury  
Member of Congress

Doris Matsui  
Member of Congress

Suzan K. DelBene  
Member of Congress

Kim Schrier, M.D.  
Member of Congress

William R. Keating  
Member of Congress

Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress

Gabe Vasquez  
Member of Congress

Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress

Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress
Kathy Castor
Kathy Manning
Jared Moskowitz
Brad Sherman
Bradley Scott Schneider
Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Frederica S. Wilson
Sheila Jackson Lee
Josh Gottheimer
Greg Landsman
Member of Congress
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