

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0550

May 25, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden,

For 11 days, Iranian-backed proxies indiscriminately bombarded Israel with more than 4,000 rockets, many of which were aimed at civilian targets. Those deadly armaments were launched by the terror surrogate Hamas, backed directly by the Islamic Republic of Iran. At the same time our ally was defending her people against terrorism propagated by Iran, your administration continues to pursue a return to the failed Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), also known as the Iran Nuclear Deal.

This troubling juxtaposition should inspire an honest review of both your diplomatic approach and condition-free strategic engagement with Iran – one of the world's foremost terrorist states directly responsible for the death and destruction that it unleashes throughout the world.

In 2020, the U.S. Department of State released a report outlining Iran's long and deadly record of malevolence, including decades-long activities through its military and intelligence apparatus that have aided, conspired, and directly perpetrated terrorist attacks across five of the globe's seven continents.

This is expressly relevant given the recent terror attacks against Israel. Essentially as a budget appropriation, for example, Iran provides \$100 million annually to Hamas and other Palestinian terror groups – which we know was used to wage war against Israel. It is also a fundamental fact that Hamas would not and did not act over the last two weeks against Israel without the tacit and material support of Iran.

For this reason, it is long past time that your administration publicly acknowledge that Iran is not now, and never has been, an honest broker willing to abide by any credible nuclear reduction agreement. The evidence is overwhelming that America's foreign policy in this region should never be predicated on the dream of a demure Iran. Our country must instead resolve to hold Iran to account for its indefensible destabilization of the Middle East.

Also troubling is the way your administration sought to jump-start a new dialogue with Iran. In fact, recent media reports indicate that negotiators are nearing a deal for the U.S. to return to direct JCPOA talks in Vienna and that your Administration bowed to Iranian demands that these preliminary negotiations be conducted through European intermediaries. Instead of telling the truth about Iran to a world that should hear it, America's representatives were preoccupied with passing notes back and forth to the mullahs.

The religious zealots continuing to exhort cries of "Death to America" and "Death to Israel" will only be emboldened by the weakness that is shown at the European message exchange substituting for American resolve. You must abandon the dream of signing a nuclear agreement with Iran and redouble America's support for our proven allies in the region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Darrell Issa', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

DARRELL ISSA
Member of Congress