



One Hundred Eighteenth Congress
Committee on Homeland Security
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

October 10, 2023

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear President Biden:

As Republican members of the House Committee on Homeland Security, we write to strongly condemn the abhorrent terrorist attacks by Iran-backed Hamas, a designated foreign terrorist organization, against innocent Israeli citizens, including civilians, women, children, and the elderly. Reports indicate that at least 1,000 Israelis were confirmed dead, as well as thousands injured, and hundreds held hostage. At least eleven Americans have been killed. The United States—especially the U.S. Congress—has stood firmly alongside our indispensable ally, Israel, in the face of enduring terror, hatred, and violence. We remain committed to be a staunch partner and fully support Israel’s right to sovereignty and self-defense to protect its citizens against such heinous attacks. We mourn for all of the lives that have been lost, hope for a swift recovery for those wounded, and pray that all those who have been taken hostage by Hamas terrorists are safely and immediately returned to their families.

We are also deeply concerned about the administration’s recent actions, including its wrongful and misguided decision on the anniversary of September 11, to release \$6 billion in frozen funds as part of a prisoner exchange to the Iranian regime, the world’s leading state sponsor of terrorism. While apparently no funds have been spent yet and reportedly will only be used for humanitarian aid, this action surely has freed up Iran’s other funding streams to bankroll its proxies like Hamas that carried out this deadly and large-scale terrorist attack against Israel. According to reports, the Iranian regime was involved in plotting and approved the attacks on Israel.

Further, it is concerning that the administration’s U.S. Office for Palestinian Affairs (Office), called on Israelis to “refrain” from a retaliatory response to Iran-backed Hamas’ terrorist attacks against their own citizens via its official Twitter account. This message was broadcasted at a time when Iran-backed Hamas terrorists launched thousands of rockets and deployed dozens of terrorists into Israeli communities to murder and kidnap innocent citizens.

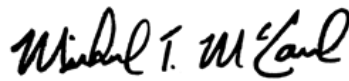
Similarly, Secretary of State Antony Blinken deleted a post from his official Twitter account, in which he “encouraged” Turkey to advocate “for a cease-fire.” Recognizing these misjudgments, the Office and Secretary Blinken deleted these social media posts in an apparent effort to conceal their statements. These initial reactions from your administration are very concerning. Your administration’s foreign policy has resulted in a number of national security failures and demonstrated utter weakness on the world stage. We must affirm that Israel has every right to respond to these barbaric acts of terror.

We plan to convene a hearing to not only examine the persistent threats posed by the Iranian regime’s campaign to direct operations against U.S. persons, dissidents, or other targets in the U.S. homeland, while they call for the “death of Israel” and “death to America,” but will also include a critical discussion about these horrific acts of terror and what they mean for our homeland security during these uncertain times. We urge you to immediately re-examine your actions and inactions on Iran and its terrorist proxies and provide Israel with whatever assistance is needed to respond to these terrorists. While you say that your administration stands with the State of Israel, we certainly expect your actions will follow accordingly. We stand ready to do our part.

Sincerely,



Mark E. Green, MD
Chairman
Committee on Homeland Security



Michael T. McCaul
Chairman
Committee on Foreign Affairs



Clay Higgins
Member of Congress



Michael Guest
Member of Congress



Dan Bishop
Member of Congress



Carlos A. Gimenez
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August Pfluger
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Andrew R. Garbarino
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Marjorie Taylor Greene
Member of Congress



Tony Gonzales
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Nick LaLota
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Mike Ezell
Member of Congress



Anthony D'Esposito
Member of Congress



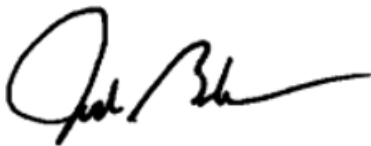
Laurel M. Lee
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