

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 31, 2023

The Honorable Chuck E. Schumer  
Senate Majority Leader  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Leader Schumer:

We are writing to demand that, during Israel's existential war against Iran's terrorist proxies, you reject the billions of dollars in humanitarian assistance requested for Gaza as part of President Biden's \$106 billion aid package.<sup>1</sup> As you know, sending aid to the Palestinians in Gaza is akin to funneling aid directly to Hamas. The president's decision to allocate additional funding, in addition to the \$100 million in aid previously announced, will inevitably end up in the hands of a genocidal Palestinian terrorist organization that has evidenced its desire to destroy the Jewish state.<sup>2</sup>

Israel is our strongest ally in the Middle East. As such, it is perplexing why the President would ask Congress to enable the United States to inadvertently fund Hamas' terror campaign against Israel. As we've seen in the past, this so-called "humanitarian aid" will likely be channeled through international organizations, including the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA).<sup>3</sup> This is not speculation — just last week, we saw reports that Hamas stole fuel and medical equipment from UNRWA, which the organization initially admitted but then subsequently denied.<sup>4</sup> UNICEF medical kits were even found on the bodies of Hamas terrorists from the horrific October 7<sup>th</sup> attack.<sup>5</sup> For over a decade, Hamas has stolen aid from UNRWA intended for the Palestinian people, and the organization has a well-documented history of antisemitism. For example, UNRWA distributes educational materials that teach Palestinian children to hate Jews, and which glorify acts of terrorism.<sup>6</sup>

The Biden administration knows full well the inherent risks in sending aid to Gaza. Internal State Department documents indicate that the Biden administration is well aware of the fact that sending taxpayer dollars to the

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<sup>1</sup> "What's in Biden's \$106 Supplemental Funding Request," Reuters (Oct. 20, 2023), <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/whats-bidens-106-billion-supplemental-funding-request-2023-10-20>.

<sup>2</sup> Kelly Garrity, "Biden announces \$100 million in humanitarian aid to Gaza and West Bank," Politico (Oct. 18, 2023), <https://www.politico.com/news/2023/10/18/biden-humanitarian-aid-gaza-west-bank-00122212>.

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Announcement of Humanitarian Assistance to the Palestinian People (Oct. 18, 2023), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2023/10/18/u-s-announcement-of-humanitarian-assistance-to-the-palestinian-people/>.

<sup>4</sup> "UNRWA indicates Hamas stole supplies from its Gaza premises, then walks back claim," Times of Israel (Oct. 16, 2023), <https://www.timesofisrael.com/un-refugee-agency-says-hamas-stole-fuel-and-medications-from-its-gaza-premises>.

<sup>5</sup> Roland Oliphant, "Hamas affiliates 'looted UN fuel and medicines in Gaza,'" The Telegraph (Oct. 16, 2023), <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/world-news/2023/10/16/hamas-used-unicef-aid-kits-during-bloody-assault-israel>.

<sup>6</sup> James Phillips and Brett D. Schaefer, "Why Trump was Right to End Funding for the UN Palestinian Aid Organization," Heritage Foundation (Sept. 6, 2018), <https://www.heritage.org/middle-east/commentary/why-trump-was-right-end-funding-the-un-palestinian-aid-organization>.

Palestinians could bolster Hamas.<sup>7</sup> As you must recognize, there is no way for the U.S. to have proper oversight over the billions of dollars that the administration intends to funnel to Gaza when Gaza is being ruled by a terrorist organization.<sup>8</sup> You have always been an ally of Israel, and you represent the state with the biggest Jewish community in the world outside of Israel. We are asking you to keep your commitment to stand with the Jewish State. That should include not sending one more dollar in humanitarian assistance to Gaza until Hamas is removed as the ruling party. Sending aid to the Palestinians would be a gift to Hamas, the same group that slaughtered over 1,400 Israelis and abducted over 200 hostages, including Americans. We implore you to ensure the U.S. does not send aid that will only strengthen Hamas' ability to murder more Jews. This is the time to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with our closest ally in the Middle East as they fight for their very existence.

Sincerely,



Marsha Blackburn  
United States Senator



Markwayne Mullin  
United States Senator



Steve Daines  
United States Senator



United States Senator  
Pete Ricketts



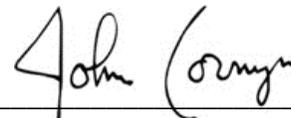
Marco Rubio  
United States Senator



Rick Scott  
United States Senator



Cynthia Lummis  
United States Senator



United States Senator  
John Cornyn

<sup>7</sup> Adam Kredo, "Biden Administration Raised Concerns Palestinian Aid would Boost Hamas. It went ahead with Aid Anyway," Washington Free Beacon (Aug. 16, 2023), <https://freebeacon.com/biden-administration/biden-admin-raised-concerns-palestinian-aid-would-boost-hamas-it-went-ahead-with-aid-anyway>.

<sup>8</sup> Deepa Shivram, "The White House is asking for almost \$106 billion for Israel, Ukraine, and the border," NPR (Oct. 20, 2023), <https://www.npr.org/2023/10/20/1206301577/biden-ukraine-israel-congress-funding-request>.



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United States Senator  
Ron Johnson



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United States Senator  
Tommy Tuberville



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United States Senator  
Mike Lee



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United States Senator  
Mike Braun