

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 8, 2023

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

President Joseph R. Biden
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write today to express our unwavering support for Israel, our greatest ally in the Middle East, and our outrage at your administration's failed leadership on the international stage.

Israel is at war. Yesterday, Hamas, the Iran-backed Palestinian terrorist group, launched an unprecedented and coordinated land, air, and sea attack against Israel. This occurred during the Jewish holiday of Simchat Torah, the day after the 50th anniversary of the Yom Kippur War, and on Shabbat—a day of rest and peace for Jews around the world. Terrorists have infiltrated Israel, taking innocent Israeli civilians and servicemembers hostage. Hundreds of Israelis have died, and the fighting has not ceased.

This violent attack deserves a strong, unequivocal condemnation by the United States. Instead, while the attacks persisted and Israel was threatened, your administration initially issued a statement calling on Israel to “refrain from violence.”¹ So far, the administration's response has been far weaker than Israel—a shining beacon of democracy and our most important ally in the Middle East—deserves.

While this is not the first act of aggression by the Hamas terrorists against one of our greatest allies, it is certainly the boldest. The failures of this administration on the world stage have no doubt emboldened those who would wish America and our allies harm. Reports indicate that U.S. arms abandoned during the disastrous Afghanistan withdrawal ended up in Hamas' hands.² This terrorist organization is also funded by the Iranian regime, the world's largest state sponsor of terrorism, whose coffers this administration has filled with over \$6 billion in sanctions relief.³ Indeed, recent reports have revealed the existence of the Iran Experts Initiative (IEI), an Iranian regime-backed foreign influence network. Included among the network's membership is Ariane Tabatabai, now chief of staff to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict, along with other close contacts of your Special Envoy for Iran, Robert Malley—

¹ Philip Klein, *Biden Administration Deletes Post Calling on Israelis Not to Respond to Hamas Assault*, NATIONAL REVIEW (October 7, 2023), <https://www.nationalreview.com/corner/biden-administration-deletes-post-calling-on-israelis-not-to-respond-to-hamas-assault/>.

² *Israel: US Arms Left in Afghanistan Reach Gaza*, MIDDLE EAST MONITOR (June 17, 2023), <https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20230617-israel-us-arms-left-in-afghanistan-reach-gaza/>.

³ Humeyra Pamuk & Arshad Mohammed, *US Allows \$6 Billion Transfer as Part of Iran Prisoner Swap*, REUTERS (Sept. 12, 2023), <https://www.reuters.com/world/us-allows-6-billion-transfer-part-iran-prisoner-swap-2023-09-11/>.

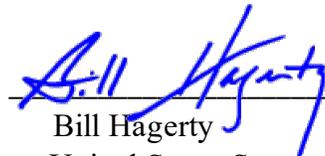
whose security clearance the State Department suspended earlier this year and who is now subject to an FBI investigation for his alleged mishandling of classified information.⁴ The world needs American leadership, and this administration has left a void that the New Axis of Evil and terrorist groups like Hamas have already begun exploiting.

Over 75 years ago, the United States was the first nation to recognize the Jewish state of Israel and affirm its right to exist. Now, in the face of senseless attacks by Iran-backed Hamas terrorists, we must again stand with Israel and reaffirm its right to defend itself. The United States of America does not abandon its friends. We urge this administration to support Israel however possible, including by providing any and all weapons and munitions necessary, and to punish the terrorists who did this, along with those who aid them. We must act swiftly and strongly.

Sincerely,



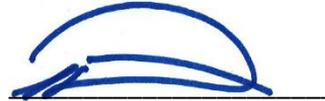
Marsha Blackburn
United States Senator



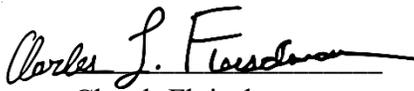
Bill Hagerty
United States Senator



Tim Burchett
Member of Congress



Scott DesJarlais, M.D.
Member of Congress



Chuck Fleischmann
Member of Congress



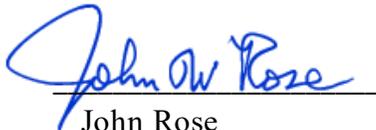
Mark E. Green, M.D.
Member of Congress



Diana Harshbarger
Member of Congress



Andy Ogles
Member of Congress



John Rose
Member of Congress

⁴ Jay Solomon, *Inside Iran's Influence Operation*, SEMAFOR (September 25, 2023), <https://www.semafor.com/article/09/25/2023/inside-irans-influence-operation>; Bozorgmehr Sharafedin, *Inside Tehran's Soft War*, IRAN INTERNATIONAL (September 24, 2023), <https://content.iranintl.com/en/investigates/inside-tehran-softwar/>; and Betsy Woodruff Swan, *State Department IG Scrutinizing Diplomat's Clearance Suspension*, POLITICO (August 1, 2023), <https://www.politico.com/news/2023/08/01/state-department-scrutinizing-suspension-00109199>.