

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 11, 2024

President Joseph R. Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden,

We write today to express our full support for the State of Israel in its fight against Hamas. Specifically, we urge your administration to do everything in your power to ensure the safe and expedient release of the hostages still held by Hamas in Gaza in the wake of the vicious October 7th attack. Further, we implore the White House to show unwavering support for Israel and to spare no effort to assist the Jewish state in its mission to 1) defeat Hamas and 2) ensure the release of these hostages during this particularly trying time in Israel's history.

While we recognize the magnitude and complexity of this situation, we must not forget that these savage terrorists have raped and pillaged their way across Israel's southern communities, ultimately killing over 1,200 innocent people. Over 250 people were taken hostage on October 7th, and 133 of them—both living and dead—remain in Hamas captivity. As you know, five American citizens are still believed to be hostages of Hamas: Edan Alexander, Sagui Dekel-Chen, Omer Neutra, Hersh Goldberg-Polin and Keith Siegel. As this situation evolved, it quickly became evident that unthinkable acts, such as severe sexual and psychological abuse, had been perpetrated against these hostages.

We strongly believe that the United States should be Israel's greatest ally and advocate in the fight to bring these individuals home, particularly considering the international community's consistent and callous minimization of the condition of these hostages. With this in mind, it is of utmost importance that the United States be aligned with Israel in its goals, as any deviations between Washington, D.C., and Jerusalem only serve to harden Hamas's resolve and decrease the chances for hostage negotiations. As such, the United States must use its voice, status, and power on the world stage to amplify the plight of these innocent hostages who were ripped from their homes by a U.S.-designated foreign terrorist organization (FTO). As a nation, we must continue to stand with Israel and ensure Jerusalem has everything it needs to execute its right to self-defense against Gaza, Iran, and its other adversaries in the Middle East.

The United States must also pressure Qatar to end its duplicitous role in this crisis. We urge you to pressure Doha to expel the leadership of Hamas from Qatar and to cease its support for the terrorist

group. The United States cannot partner with countries that provide a haven to FTOs that continue to kill and entrap innocent individuals. An honest assessment of U.S.-Qatar relations is vital to the safe return of these hostages as well as an end to the Israel-Hamas war.

In closing, we reiterate our support for the State of Israel, and we urge your administration to exhibit unwavering support for Israel, its military objectives in Gaza, and its inviolable right to self-defense. Neither Israel nor those held captive by Hamas can afford for the United States to tie the hands of the very forces fighting for the safe return of the innocent. Your administration's support is vital to ensuring the safe return of these hostages.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'RF' followed by a stylized flourish.

Russell Fry
Member of Congress