

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 10, 2023

The Honorable Antony Blinken  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C St. NW  
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Blinken,

Since Hamas' indiscriminate attack on Israel Saturday morning, our offices have received harrowing reports from constituents who remain in Israel and are seeking to return to the United States as soon as possible. We write to express our grave concern for their wellbeing and safety. Given the rapidly escalating situation as Israel launches a counteroffensive, it is imperative that you use all tools at your disposal to return all U.S. nationals in Israel home who wish to do so.

Almost 50 years to the day of the start of the Yom Kippur War, Hamas terrorists crossed the border and began slaughtering Israelis and abducting hostages in towns in southern Israel. To date, thousands of lives—including 11 Americans—have been lost due to Hamas' indiscriminate and brutal assault since Saturday. Hamas' heinous actions also include taking over 150 Israeli hostages, which our offices have received reports that Americans are among those taken hostage in Gaza, including New Yorkers. It has been devastating to see the horrific accounts of those around the country taking shelter from the thousands of rockets launched from Gaza. This past weekend was meant to be one of happiness and celebration for the Jewish community. Instead, our constituents were left distraught and in tears fearing for the safety of their friends and loved ones in Israel.

While we appreciate the steps the Biden administration is taking to provide additional security assistance to Israel, we urge the State Department to use all resources at its disposal, including charter flights, to help those Americans that remain in Israel and wish to return to the United States. As you are aware, airlines have cancelled most flights out of Ben Gurion Airport, and some have suspended operations in the region. As the number of casualties continues to rise, our constituents who remain in Israel fear for their lives. We ask that you consider charter flights and military options for evacuation, simultaneously.

At this harrowing moment in Israel's history, it is more important than ever that every American who is looking to return home has the opportunity to do so. We look forward to your quick response.

Sincerely,



Grace Meng  
Member of Congress



Nicole Malliotakis  
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress



J. Luis Correa  
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress



Andrea Salinas  
Member of Congress



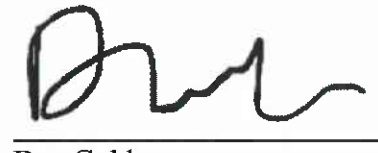
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Member of Congress



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Member of Congress



Jim Tokuda  
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Dan Goldman  
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Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress

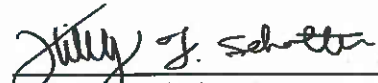


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Member of Congress



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Member of Congress



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Member of Congress



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Jennifer L. McClellan  
Member of Congress



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Member of Congress



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Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress



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Chrissy Houlahan  
Member of Congress



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Pramila Jayapal  
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Valerie P. Foushee  
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Lizzie Fletcher  
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Ann McLane Kuster  
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Susie Lee  
Member of Congress



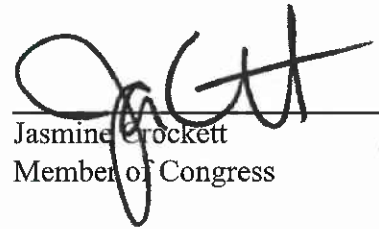
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Veronica Escobar  
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Mary Gay Scanlon  
Member of Congress



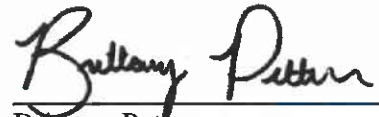
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Jasmine Crockett  
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Brittany Pettersen  
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Joseph D. Morelle  
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Kat Cammack  
Member of Congress



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Bonnie Watson Coleman  
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Haley M. Stevens  
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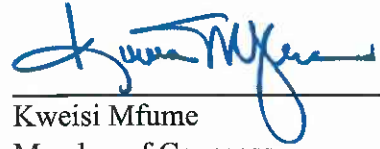
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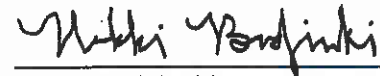
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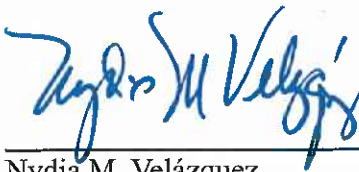
  
Ayanna Pressley  
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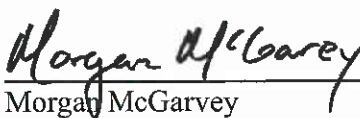
  
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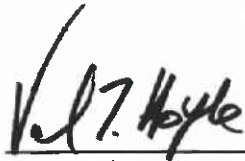




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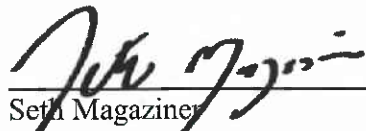
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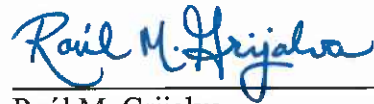
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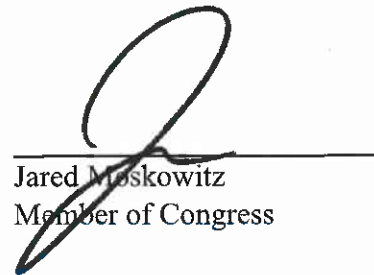
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Jared Moskowitz  
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Lauren Underwood  
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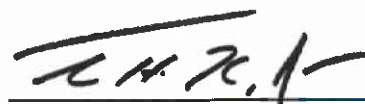
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Judy Chu  
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Garret Graves  
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Tim Burchett  
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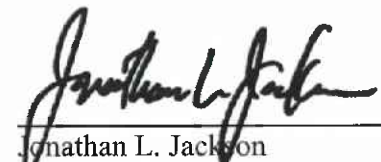
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Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



Jonathan L. Jackson  
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C. A. Dutch Ruppertsberger  
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Danny K. Davis  
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Barbara Lee  
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Raja Krishnamoorthi  
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Linda T. Sánchez  
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Brad R. Wenstrup, D.P.M.  
Member of Congress



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Michael Guest  
Member of Congress



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Emilia Strong Sykes  
Member of Congress




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Al Green  
Member of Congress  
Ranking Member,  
Subcommittee on Oversight  
and Investigations




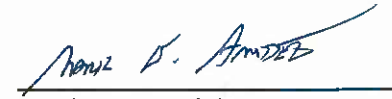
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Andy Kim  
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Mike Thompson  
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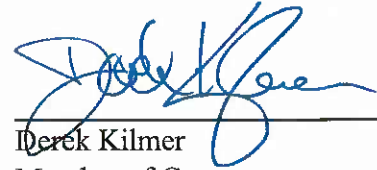
  
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Randy Feenstra  
Member of Congress



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Pete Stauber  
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Derek Kilmer  
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Dwight Evans  
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Norma J. Torres  
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