

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0908

October 10, 2023

The Honorable Joe Biden
President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden:

The terror and devastation unleashed on Israel over the last 72 hours by Iran-backed Hamas terrorists has rightly horrified the world. Innocent families were murdered in their homes. Teenage girls have been raped and then burned alive. An elderly wheelchair-bound woman, who was later identified as a Holocaust survivor, was brutally dragged through the streets of Gaza and killed. Children who witnessed the murders of their parents have been kidnapped and are now being held hostage by Hamas. More than 250 youths were mowed down while attending a music festival in Southern Israel. At least 14 Americans have been killed. The atrocities are too numerous to fully recount here, but the images seen will never leave our memories.

Now, our great ally Israel is in a fight for its very existence. From 1948 until now, six wars and thousands of terrorist attacks have been launched against Israel simply because it exists. The Israelis have not instigated a single war, much less a terrorist attack, against any state or anyone. Every Israeli military action has been launched against its enemies in retaliation for violence against Israel and its citizens, much of which has been directly funded and supported by the evil Iranian regime.

While we appreciate the willingness of the leaders of France, the United Kingdom, Italy and Germany to stand in support of Israel as expressed in your joint statement yesterday, the statement failed to direct any action toward the evil behind these attacks: Iran. We know that the Iranian regime is behind the brutal attacks on innocent civilians being carried out by terrorists from Hamas and Palestinian Jihad. The United States and our allies cannot ignore this reality for a second longer. We the undersigned senators urge you to immediately convene the G7 nations and take coordinated action to further isolate Iran with severe sanctions and action that will strike directly at the wealth that this evil brings to the Ayatollah and the Iranian mullahs.

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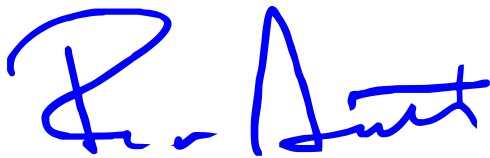
Iran is not a normal country. It is not a negotiating partner nor does it pretend to follow the rules based order of the civilized world. Every dollar within the grasp and control of the Iranian regime is used to fund terrorism and fuel its power. That is why we must isolate Iran and cut it off economically. Without sources of revenue, Iran will be unable to fund the mass terror it supports around the globe.

We have seen the responses from your administration regarding your decision to unfreeze \$6 billion of Iranian oil revenue. Mr. President, money is fungible and if you truly believe that this decision did not play a role in the brutality Hamas unleashed on Israel last weekend, you are gravely mistaken. We urge you to immediately reverse your decision regarding these funds and, as the leader of the free world, lead America's partners and allies in securing agreements from as many nations as possible to take the most severe economic and diplomatic action against Iran possible under law.

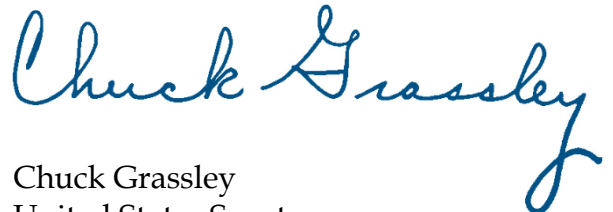
This is an incredibly important moment for Israel, the United States of America, and all nations that support the Jewish State and freedom and democracy both within their own borders and across the world. The United States has made clear that we fully support Israel and its right to do what it must to defend its homeland and citizens. We must also be clear that Iran is behind this terror.

Now, it falls on you as President of the United States to lead the freedom-loving world. We must punish the evil Iranian regime, which remains the world's largest state sponsor of terror, and deny its ability to continue supporting the brutality witnessed in Israel from ever occurring again.

Sincerely,



Rick Scott
United States Senator



Chuck Grassley
United States Senator



Kevin Cramer
United States Senator



Pete Ricketts
United States Senator



Steve Daines
United States Senator



Cindy Hyde-Smith
United States Senator



Marsha Blackburn
United States Senator



Thom Tillis
United States Senator



Deb Fischer
United States Senator



Katie Boyd Britt
United States Senator