

Public Statement on the Israel-Hamas War

December 19, 2023

We are all individuals who devoted significant portions of our lives to the national security of the United States. Some of us served in senior positions in the U.S. military, some of us in policy departments and agencies, and some of us in the intelligence community. Some of us were political appointees, and some of us were career officials. Many of us worked for presidents of both political parties.

All of us believe that Israel's victory in its war to eradicate Hamas and other terrorist proxies of the Islamic Republic of Iran is critical for Middle East peace and stability. Moreover, Israel is at the vanguard of a global battle to defend and protect the values that define Western civilization. As such, the success of Israel's efforts is vital to the interests of the United States and all other countries that cherish life and liberty.

On October 7, 2023, Hamas and its Gazan camp followers broke a long-standing cease-fire to engage in mass kidnapping, rape, murder, and unspeakably depraved torture in southern Israel. Since that date, Hamas has continued its genocidal mission of eradicating the Jewish state by firing thousands of rockets into Israel, directly threatening millions of civilians. Hamas, like ISIS before it, worships the most barbaric forms of violence, rooted in a perverse Islamist ideology.

Hamas, even as it continues to target civilians in Israel, is using Gazans, many against their will, both as human shields and propaganda swords. Notwithstanding Hamas's depravity and the direct complicity of many Gazans in the atrocities of October 7, the Israel Defense Forces comply with the rules of war, the Geneva Convention, and otherwise, taking extraordinary measures to mitigate harm to civilians.

With the aim of freeing scores of hostages, including American citizens, and eliminating Hamas, the IDF are neutralizing terrorists and systematically destroying Hamas's multibillion-dollar military infrastructure, including tunnels, weapons factories, training facilities, and command centers, much of it hidden within civilian areas.

Notably, Hamas used "humanitarian aid" from Western governments, including the United States and the European Union, as well as the United Nations, to subsidize the construction of this terrorist infrastructure, used and still uses international aid to support its military operations. Hamas ruled in Gaza thanks in substantial part to Western aid.

Accordingly, we believe that the United States Government must provide the IDF the time, resources, and diplomatic support necessary to utterly defeat Hamas – dismantle its operational capability, eliminate its leadership, and discredit its ideology. This is in the national security interest of the United States.

We, therefore:

- Commend the Congress for supporting the people of Israel, the IDF, and the Government of Israel, and for ensuring that the IDF has the munitions and armaments they need to defeat Hamas and other malign regional actors. Such assistance is in America's national interest, and it must continue.
- Support Israel's military goal that the war will end only when Hamas no longer maintains the capacity to murder. We urge U.S. policymakers to reject, in absolute terms, any prolonged cease-fire without the unconditional surrender of Hamas and release of every hostage held by Hamas. And we strongly encourage the President and other senior government officials to speak out with absolute moral clarity – Israel's war is just.
- Urge the President, in his role as the Commander in Chief, to immediately restore global deterrence against Iran, which directly threatens America and Israel alike. Similarly, we urge President Biden and his administration to refrain from imposing strategically damaging constraints on Israel's defensive military and security activities or imposing post conflict conditions.

An American Israeli, born in Scranton, Pennsylvania, lost his son, a major in the IDF reserves, in the battle against Hamas. At the funeral, this father said: "Mr. President - Don't pressure us. Let us do what we know how to do, what we must do: defeat evil. This is a war of light against darkness, of truth against lies, of civility against barbarism."

We agree. Let Israel win. May God defend all that is right and good.

Signed:

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