

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 17, 2023

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden,

We are heartbroken that Hamas has kidnapped over 199 civilians, including American citizens, during its brutal terrorist attacks in Israel on October 7, 2023. We appreciate that you have sent the U.S. Deputy Special Envoy for Hostage Affairs to Israel to assist in the recovery of the hostages, and we urge you to do everything in your power to secure their safe release.

Hamas has already killed 30 Americans, and likely injured many more. We agree with your labeling of Hamas's immoral attacks as an "act of sheer evil," and a "violation of every code of human morality." The terrorists responsible for these atrocities hide behind human shields while they threaten to livestream the execution of hostages. Hamas has also reportedly demanded the mass release of prisoners in exchange for freeing its hostages and could use the hostages to push for a ceasefire. With several U.S. citizens still missing in the aftermath of the terror group's brutal attack, we urge you to continue putting your full attention on the freeing of American hostages. Every day must be treated with a sense of urgency.

As a result, we urge the United States to continue supporting Israel's urgent efforts to dismantle the threat of Hamas, provide the necessary resources for Israel's defense, and continue offering whatever support necessary to immediately and safely rescue kidnapped Americans, with particular attention to those who require urgent medical care.

Lastly, many families are painfully waiting for any update on the health of their loved ones who have been taken hostage. We urge you to encourage our allies and partners in the region to place pressure on Hamas to allow the International Committee of the Red Cross to have access to the hostages while the United States and Israel work to secure their release.

We appreciate your attention on this extraordinarily important matter.

Sincerely,



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Joni K. Ernst  
United States Senator



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Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator



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John Barrasso, M.D.  
United States Senator



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Jacky Rosen  
United States Senator



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Steve Daines  
United States Senator



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Kristen Gillibrand  
United States Senator



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James E. Risch  
United States Senator



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Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator



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Roger Wicker  
United States Senator



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Mark R. Warner  
United States Senator



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John Cornyn  
United States Senator



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Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator



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Dan Sullivan  
United States Senator



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Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senator



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Lindsey O. Graham  
United States Senator



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Brian Schatz  
United States Senator



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James Lankford  
United States Senator



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Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator



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Charles E. Grassley  
United States Senator



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Mark Kelly  
United States Senator

*Bill Cassidy, M.D.*

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Bill Cassidy, M.D.  
United States Senator

*Rick Scott*

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Rick Scott  
United States Senator

*Shelley Moore Capito*

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Shelley Moore Capito  
United States Senator

*John Boozman*

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John Boozman  
United States Senator

*Katie Boyd Britt*

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Katie Boyd Britt  
United States Senator

*Bill Hagerty*

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Bill Hagerty  
United States Senator

*Markwayne Mullin*

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United States Senator

*Pete Ricketts*

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United States Senator

*Jeanne Shaheen*

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Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator

*Richard Blumenthal*

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Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator

*Tina Smith*

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Tina Smith  
United States Senator

*Jon Tester*

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Jon Tester  
United States Senator

*Sherrod Brown*

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Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator

*Alex Padilla*

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Alex Padilla  
United States Senator

*Chris Coons*

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Christopher A. Coons  
United States Senator

*Amy Klobuchar*

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Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator



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Thom Tillis  
United States Senator



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Catherine Cortez Masto  
United States Senator



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John Hoeven  
United States Senator



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Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator



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Kevin Cramer  
United States Senator



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Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
United States Senator



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Tommy Tuberville  
United States Senator



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Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator



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Ted Budd  
United States Senator



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Christopher S. Murphy  
United States Senator



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Mariannette Miller-Meeks, M.D.  
Member of Congress



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Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Member of Congress



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Darrell Issa  
Member of Congress