

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 9, 2023

Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield
United States Ambassador to the United Nations
799 United Nations Plaza
New York, New York 10017

Dear Ambassador Thomas-Greenfield:

We write with our utmost concern regarding the recent terrorist attacks on Israel by Hamas and other terrorist organizations in the region. We commend your unequivocal condemnation of Hamas' terrorism and your support for Israel's right to defend its people. Recent events have demonstrated that Hamas' actions, tactics, and stated goals are in many ways indistinguishable from Al Qaeda, ISIS, and other terrorist organizations the United Nations (UN) has sanctioned. Therefore, we write to urge you to bring a resolution to the UN Security Council recognizing and imposing sanctions on Hamas as a terrorist organization.

As you know, on October 7, 2023, thousands of Hamas terrorists launched attacks, including on civilian communities, in southern Israel, brutally murdering 1,400 innocent people and wounding 4,500 others. Additionally, Hamas kidnapped over 240 men, women, and children – ranging from infants to Holocaust survivors. Hamas terrorists have committed and continue to commit abhorrent attacks that not only impact Israelis but also directly impact Americans citizens, with at least 32 Americans killed and countless more held in captive as a result of the terrorist attack on October 7. In fact, Hamas hostages come from 25 countries around the world. Hamas' reign of terror is not just an Israeli problem, but one that impacts us all.

Since October 1997, the U.S. Department of Treasury has designated Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ), and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) as Foreign Terrorist Organizations. Additionally, these groups have been listed as Specially Designated Global Terrorists (SDGTs) since October 2001. Numerous other countries and international entities rightfully have designated Hamas as a terrorist organization, including Australia, Canada, the European Union, Japan, Israel, the Organization of American States, Paraguay, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom. Switzerland is also actively exploring legal avenues to designate Hamas as a terrorist entity.

There are multiple consequences of the UN not recognizing Hamas as a terrorist organization. First, the lack of a unified voice among the international community risks eroding the UN's credibility in response to one of the worst terrorist attacks in history. Additionally, as the largest financial contributor to the UN, the U.S. must take urgent action to prevent the flow of funds into the hands of Hamas. The absence of UN sanctions on Hamas is a glaring loophole, circumventing U.S. financial controls, such as the rigorous standards set by the U.S. Department of Treasury, potentially allowing Hamas to evade U.S. sanctions. Furthermore, the lack of UN sanctions on Hamas enables them to bolster their capabilities by exploiting international financial channels, including accessing financial systems and soliciting donations from charities.

We are also concerned that a lack of UN sanctions enables Hamas to divert humanitarian aid for malicious intent, which deprives innocent Palestinian civilians of crucial assistance while simultaneously strengthening offensive capabilities used to attack Israel. Hamas continues to divert aid meant for civilians in order to fund its operations by:

- Imposing "taxes" on humanitarian consignments at border checkpoints;
- Seizing a segment of donated goods intended for Palestinian civilians and later selling them illicitly for financial gain;
- Seizing donated supplies – as Hamas did on October 16, 2023, when they took fuel meant for Gazan hospitals from a United Nations Relief and Works Agency site; and
- Dismantling and repurposing humanitarian facilities, like water and sewage components, to create rockets and missiles, some of which misfire and land in Gaza, causing Palestinian civilian casualties and posing threats to aid workers.

We therefore request you bring forward a UN resolution to recognize and sanction Hamas as a terrorist organization. Thank you for your consideration, and we look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,



James Lankford
United States Senator



Jacky Rosen
United States Senator



Kevin Cramer
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



Thom Tillis
United States Senator



Alex Padilla
United States Senator



John Barrasso, M.D.
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Joni K. Ernst
United States Senator



Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senator

John Boozman
United States Senator

Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator

Rick Scott
United States Senator

Mark Kelly
United States Senator

Jerry Moran
United States Senator

Bill Hagerty
United States Senator

Marco Rubio
United States Senator

Mike Braun
United States Senator

Chuck Grassley
United States Senator

Cynthia M. Lummis
United States Senator

Susan Collins
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Cindy Hyde-Smith
United States Senator

Dan Sullivan
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Shelley Moore Capito
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Mike Crapo
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John Thune
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Deb Fischer
United States Senator

John Kennedy
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Lindsey Graham
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Katie Boyd Britt
United States Senator

Pete Ricketts
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Marsha Blackburn
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Steve Daines
United States Senator

Ted Budd
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