

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 12, 2024

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

The Honorable Lloyd Austin  
Secretary of Defense  
U.S. Department of Defense  
1000 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Secretaries Blinken and Austin:

We strongly support Israel's right to self-defense and condemn the brutal terrorist attack by Hamas on October 7, in which Hamas killed over 1,200 people and took 235 people hostage. We continue to call on Hamas to release all hostages and support the Biden Administration's efforts to broker a bilateral ceasefire that includes the release of hostages. We also support U.S. efforts to reach a security agreement between Israel and Lebanon to end the fighting, allow citizens on both sides of the border to return home, and lower regional tensions. Further, we condemn the unprecedented Iranian attacks against Israel launched on April 13, 2024, and October 1, 2024. We must continue to avoid a major regional conflict – and we welcome the concerted diplomatic efforts by the U.S. and our allies to prevent further escalation.

We are also deeply troubled by the continued level of civilian casualties and humanitarian suffering in Gaza. We welcomed the October 13th [letter](#) you sent to the Israeli government, imposing a 30-day deadline to “reverse the downward humanitarian trajectory” in Gaza and fulfill requirements consistent with Israel's March 2024 assurances that its actions are compliant with U.S. and international law, including facilitating humanitarian assistance. That deadline has expired, and while some progress has been made, we believe the Israeli government has [not yet fulfilled](#) the [requirements](#) outlined in your letter.

**Therefore we request that your Administration provide a full assessment of the status of Israel's compliance with all relevant U.S. policies and laws, including National Security Memorandum 20 (NSM-20) and Section 620I of the Foreign Assistance Act.**

This request is consistent with one made by many of us in a May [letter](#) to the Administration in which we raised similar concerns regarding the humanitarian crisis in Gaza and urged enforcement of NSM-20.

Our concerns remain urgent and largely unresolved, including arbitrary restrictions on humanitarian aid and insufficient delivery routes, among others. As a result, Gaza's civilian population is facing dire famine. As documented in the State Department's May 10th NSM-20 report, although overall access to humanitarian aid has improved, it remains [insufficient](#) and there are credible reports of potential breaches of U.S. law. Further, on October 28th, State Department Spokesperson Matthew Miller said, that “At this point, they're not meeting all the conditions of the letter” with reference to Israel.

We believe further administrative action must be taken to ensure Israel upholds the assurances it provided in March 2024 to facilitate, and not directly or indirectly obstruct, U.S. humanitarian assistance. We remain committed to a negotiated solution that can bring an end to the fighting, free the remaining hostages, surge humanitarian aid, and lay the groundwork to rebuild Gaza with a legitimate Palestinian governing body. We thank you and the Administration for its ongoing work to achieve those shared goals.

Sincerely,



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Jason Crow  
Member of Congress



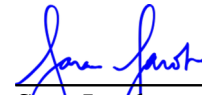
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Madeleine Dean  
Member of Congress



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Chrissy Houlahan  
Member of Congress



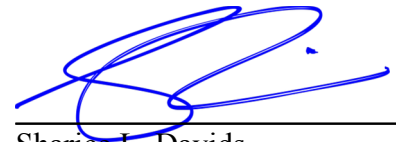
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Sara Jacobs  
Member of Congress



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James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress




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Sharice L. Davids  
Member of Congress



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Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress



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Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress



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Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



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Gwen S. Moore  
Member of Congress



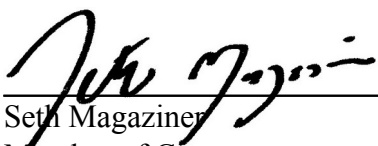
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Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez  
Member of Congress



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Val Hoyle  
Member of Congress



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Seth Magaziner  
Member of Congress



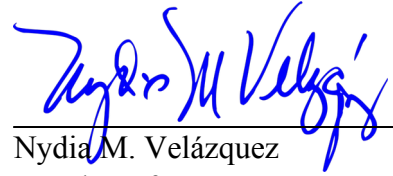
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Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress



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Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress



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Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress



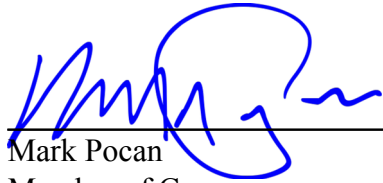
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Joaquin Castro  
Member of Congress



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Maxine Waters  
Member of Congress



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Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress



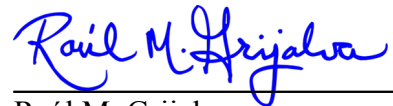
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Ro Khanna  
Member of Congress



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Maxwell Alejandro Frost  
Member of Congress



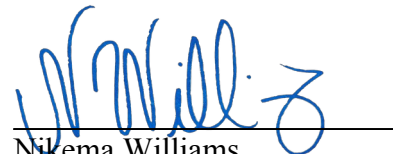
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Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress



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Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress



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Nikema Williams  
Member of Congress



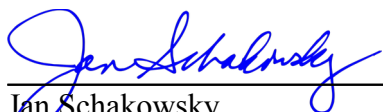
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Greg Casar  
Member of Congress



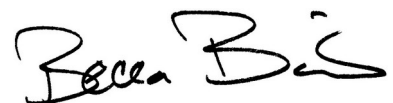
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Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress



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Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



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Becca Balint  
Member of Congress



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Eric Swalwell  
Member of Congress



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Daniel T. Kildee  
Member of Congress



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John Garamendi  
Member of Congress



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Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress



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Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Member of Congress



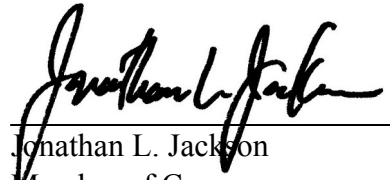
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Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress



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Ami Bera, M.D.  
Member of Congress



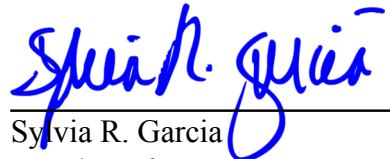
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Jonathan L. Jackson  
Member of Congress



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Bill Foster  
Member of Congress



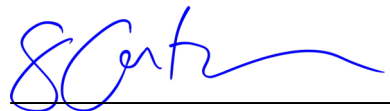
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Sylvia R. Garcia  
Member of Congress



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Ayanna Pressley  
Member of Congress



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Sean Casten  
Member of Congress



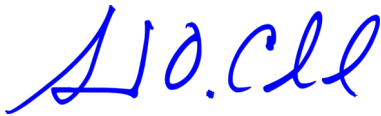
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Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress



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Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress



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Salud Carbajal  
Member of Congress



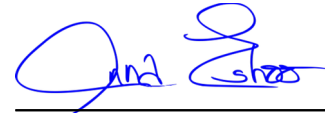
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Lori Trahan  
Member of Congress



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Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress



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Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress



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JM Tokuda  
Member of Congress



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MARK TAKANO  
Member of Congress



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Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress




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Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress



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Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress



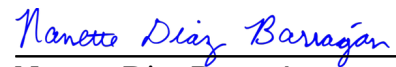
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Mary Gay Scanlon  
Member of Congress



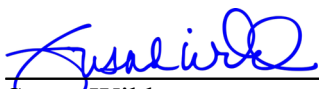
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Paul D. Tonko  
Member of Congress



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Nanette Diaz Barragán  
Member of Congress



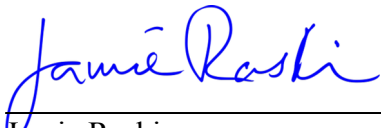
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Susan Wild  
Member of Congress



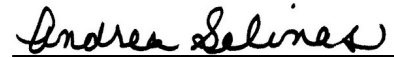
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Veronica Escobar  
Member of Congress



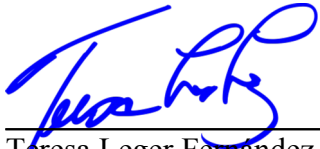
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Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress



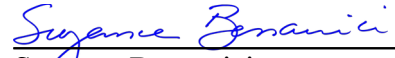
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Andrea Salinas  
Member of Congress



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Teresa Leger Fernandez  
Member of Congress



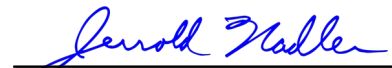
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Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress



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Troy Carter  
Member of Congress



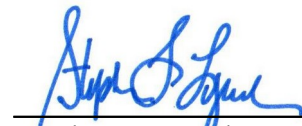
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Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress



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Doris Matsui  
Member of Congress



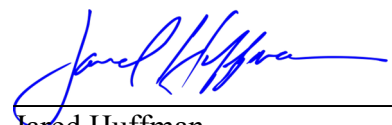
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Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress



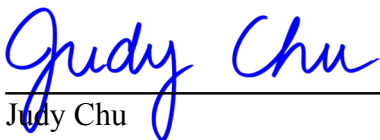
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Chris Deluzio  
Member of Congress



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Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress



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Judy Chu  
Member of Congress



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Gabe Amo  
Member of Congress



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Rosa L. DeLauro  
Member of Congress



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Valerie P. Foushee  
Member of Congress



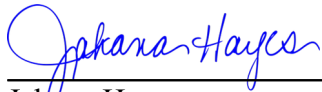
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Al Green  
Member of Congress



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Kevin Mullin  
Member of Congress



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Jahana Hayes  
Member of Congress



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Ann McLane Kuster  
Member of Congress



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Terri A. Sewell  
Member of Congress



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Robert C. "Bobby" Scott  
Member of Congress



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Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
Member of Congress