

Sen. Johnson: Joins Sen. Rubio, Republican Colleagues in Urging Administration To Unequivocally Support Israel's Right to Defend Itself Against Terrorist Attacks

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Sends letter to President Biden to end negotiations with Iran due to their support of Hamas

WASHINGTON – U.S. Sen. Ron Johnson (R-Wis.) joined Sen. Rubio and 42 other Republican colleagues in sending a letter to President Biden urging him and his administration to stand unequivocally with Israel and in no circumstances offer Iran, the largest state sponsor of terrorism and financier of Hamas, sanctions relief. The United States must hold Iran accountable for their support of terrorists.

“Over the past couple days, Palestinian terrorists in Gaza, who are funded by Iran, have launched a series of rocket attacks into Israel,” wrote the senators. “They are targeting Israeli civilians and cities, including Israel’s capital Jerusalem. This is troubling as members of your administration are currently in Vienna negotiating with Iran, the world’s leading state sponsor of terrorism.”

“The United States must not do anything to enrich Israel’s enemies, such as by

offering sanctions relief to a regime that seeks to destroy Israel,” continued the senators. “As a longtime friend of the Jewish state, we also urge you to unequivocally support Israel’s right to defend itself against any and all terrorist attacks.”

Text of the letter is below, and can be found [here](#).

President Joe Biden

The White House

1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW

Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write with regard to the ongoing rocket attacks against Israel by the Palestinian terrorist organization Hamas. Over the past couple days, Palestinian terrorists in Gaza, who are funded by Iran, have launched a series of rocket attacks into Israel. They are targeting Israeli civilians and cities, including Israel’s capital Jerusalem. This is troubling as members of your administration are currently in Vienna negotiating with Iran, the world’s leading state sponsor of terrorism. In light of these recent attacks by Hamas against Israel, the United States should take all steps necessary to hold Tehran accountable and under no circumstances, provide sanctions relief to Iran. This is especially important as Iran is supporting terrorist activity against the United States’ closest ally in the region, Israel.

As you know, Palestinian terrorist groups launched more than 1,000 rockets targeting Israel over the last few days alone. This includes the first rockets aimed at Jerusalem since 2014. While the United States and countries around the world condemned these rocket attacks, Iran resoundingly supports this aggression. Shortly after the attacks began, and as they continued, Iran’s Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei tweeted that Palestinians should unite to “use the tools of their disposal” to attack Israel, which he recently called not a nation, but a “terrorist garrison.” Even the Iranian Foreign Minister, Mohammed Javad Zarif, who currently is supervising Iran’s negotiating team in Vienna, called Hamas’ leader Ismail Haniyeh to express Iran’s support for the group’s actions.

The United States designated Hamas as a terrorist organization in 1997 and as

such, is prohibited from providing any funds to Hamas. Iran, however, is a longtime financial and material supporter of Hamas. The United States engaging in active negotiations with Iran and potentially providing billions of dollars in sanctions relief will no doubt contribute to Iran's support of Hamas and other terrorist organizations who attack Americans and our allies. We call on you to immediately end negotiations with Iran, and make clear that sanctions relief will not be provided. Doing so would demonstrate a firm commitment to our closest ally in the region and to our own security interests.

The United States must not do anything to enrich Israel's enemies, such as by offering sanctions relief to a regime that seeks to destroy Israel. As a longtime friend of the Jewish state, we also urge you to unequivocally support Israel's right to defend itself against any and all terrorist attacks.

Sincerely,

Ron Johnson

United States Senator

Marco Rubio

United States Senator

James M. Inhofe

United States Senator

Todd Young

United States Senator

Charles E. Grassley

United States Senator

James Lankford

United States Senator

John Barrasso, M.D.

United States Senator

Rick Scott

United States Senator

1. Michael Rounds

United States Senator

Cindy Hyde-Smith

United States Senator

Rodger Marshall, M.D.

United States Senator

Mitt Romney

United States Senator

Deb Fischer

United States Senator

Cynthia Lummis

United States Senator

John Thune

United States Senator

Roger H. Wicker

United States Senator

Kevin Cramer

United States Senator

Ted Cruz

United States Senator

John Kennedy

United States Senator

Michael S. Lee

United States Senator

Bill Cassidy, M.D.

United States Senator

Tommy Tuberville

United States Senator

Lisa Murkowski

United States Senator

James E. Risch

United States Senator

Pat Toomey

United States Senator

Tom Cotton

United States Senator

Thom Tillis

United States Senator

Steve Daines

United States Senator

Josh Hawley

United States Senator

Dan Sullivan

United States Senator

Mike Crapo

United States Senator

Marsha Blackburn

United States Senator

Mike Braun

United States Senator

Joni K. Ernst

United States Senator

Ben Sasse

United States Senator

Tim Scott

United States Senator

John Boozman

United States Senator

Bill Hagerty

United States Senator

John Hoeven

United States Senator

Shelly Moore Capito

United States Senator

Richard Burr

United States Senator

Susan Collins

United States Senator

John Cornyn

United States Senator

Rob Portman

United States Senator