



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 11, 2023

Friends—I wish I could be with you in person today as you rally together to show support for Israel and to mourn the lives lost during the horrific terrorist attacks perpetrated against the Israeli people. The Jewish Federation of Delaware, Rabbi Beals, and the broader Jewish community in Delaware are close to my heart, and I thank you for standing together in this moment of grief.

As I said yesterday, the people of Israel experienced a moment of pure, unadulterated evil this weekend, unleashed by the terrorist organization Hamas. More than 1,000 innocent civilians were killed, among them at least 22 American citizens. Americans are also among those being held by Hamas, and my Administration is working closely with Israel to support hostage recovery efforts.

The brutality and cruelty of these attacks are stomach-turning. But unfortunately, for Jewish people it is not new. This attack has brought to the surface painful memories of the scars left by millennia of antisemitism and the genocide of the Jewish people. And I know, for many of you, this is not a distant conflict—you have friends and loved ones in Israel. It's deeply personal. So, in this moment, we must be clear: There is no justification for terrorism. There is no excuse. The United States of America stands with Israel.

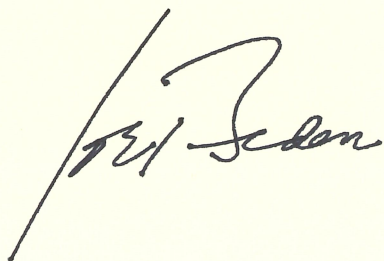
Like every nation, Israel has a right to respond—indeed, a duty to respond—to these vicious attacks, and we will make sure Israel has what it needs to take care of its citizens and to defend itself. We are surging additional military assistance, including ammunition and interceptors, to replenish Israel's Iron Dome. We must make sure that Israel does not run out of these life-saving assets to defend its cities and its citizens. And when Congress returns, I will ask them to take urgent action to fund the national security requirements of our critical partners.

We have also enhanced U.S. military force posture in the region to strengthen deterrence. We have moved a carrier strike group to the Eastern Mediterranean and bolstered our fighter aircraft presence. We stand ready to move additional assets if necessary. Our hearts are broken, but our resolve is clear.

Here at home, my Administration is working to condemn and combat antisemitism at every turn, including by continuing to implement the first-ever National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism. We must be clear that there is no place for hate in America.

Today people across the country are praying for all those families that have been ripped apart, including Americans who have been killed and abducted. This is a human tragedy—an atrocity on an appalling scale—and we will continue to stand united, supporting the people of Israel who are suffering unspeakable losses and opposing the hatred and violence of terrorism.

For 75 years, Israel has stood as the ultimate guarantor of the Jewish people's security around the world so that the atrocities of the past could never again be repeated. Let there be no doubt that the United States has Israel's back. We will make sure the Jewish and democratic State of Israel can defend itself today and tomorrow, as we always have.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Clinton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.