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October 12, 2023

Michael A. Hughes
Director
National Central Bureau
INTERPOL Washington
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Re: Request to Issue INTERPOL Notices Against Hamas Operatives Responsible for Murdering and Taking as Hostages U.S. Citizens in Israel

Dear Mr. Hughes:

On October 7, 2023, Hamas, a foreign terrorist organization designated by the State Department, carried out vicious war crimes in Israel, reportedly killing at least 1300 innocent men, women, children, and the elderly, including twenty-two American citizens. In addition to the brutal murders, which included slaughtering of innocent babies, Hamas terrorists took over 150 hostages, including American citizens and other foreign nationals, back to the Gaza Strip. At least seventeen Americans are reportedly unaccounted for.

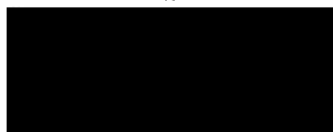
As you know, videos and photographs of the terrorists who committed such horrible crimes are readily available in the media, including statements of known Hamas leaders taking full responsibility for instigating the attack, praised the attack, and admitted to holding the hostages captive.

Until any prosecutions against the attackers are initiated, which would warrant Red notices, we urge you to identify the terrorists and request INTERPOL to issue Green notices as those terrorists are an immediate threat to public safety, including the safety of U.S. citizens.¹

The State Department has also designated Hamas, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) as foreign terrorist organizations. Moreover, the United States Government already has information about some key Hamas leaders and has even placed them on the terror watch lists, including some of the following individuals. Their own statements show their involvement in the recent attacks.

¹INTERPOL's Rules on the Processing of Data, art. 89.

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- Hamas leader, Ismail Haniyeh, was “spotted with other Hamas officials cheering for joy” over the attacks of October 7.² He gave a speech encouraging the terrorist attacks saying: “Enough is enough, the cycle of intifadas and revolutions in the battle to liberate our land and our prisoners languishing in occupation [Israeli] prisons must be completed.”³ Haniyeh was designated as Specially Designated Global Terrorist (SDGT) by the State Department in 2018.
- Mohammad Deif, the commander of the Al-Qassam Brigade, Hamas’ military wing, “called on Palestinians everywhere to fight the Israeli occupation.”⁴ In an audio message, Deif said: “We’ve decided to say enough is enough,” as he called the invasion “the day of the greatest battle to end the last occupation on Earth.”⁵ Deif was designated as SDGT by the State Department in 2015.
- Abu Obeida, Hamas’ military spokesman, threatened to execute the hostages and to broadcast the executions in retaliation for Israeli strikes.⁶
- Mahmoud Mirdawi is a senior Hamas official who called the October 7 attacks “a Palestinian and Hamas decision.”⁷
- Ziyad Al-Nakhala, the leader of the PIJ, admitted to “holding captive more than 30 of the Israelis who were abducted.”⁸

Their own statements admitting involvement in the October 7 attack and holding captive hostages should be sufficient evidence to issue Green notices against them under INTERPOL’s Rules on the Processing of Data.

²Matt Drake, *How Hamas Leader Ismail Haniyeh Watched Attack on Israel on TV from His Office in Qatar as He Celebrated with Other Officials*, DAILY MAIL, <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-12608271/How-Hamas-leader-Ismail-Haniyeh-watched-attack-Israel-TV-office-Qatar-celebrated-officials.html> (last updated Oct. 9, 2023, 2:59 AM).

³*Israeli Retaliation Kills 230 Palestinians after Hamas Operation*, AL JAZEERA, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/10/7/sirens-warn-of-rockets-launched-towards-israel-from-gaza-news-reports> (last updated Oct. 7, 2023, 3:49 AM).

⁴*Id.*

⁵*Id.*

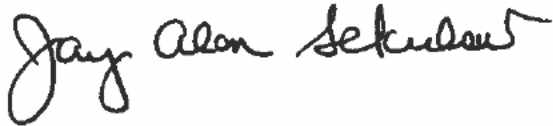
⁶Stephen Kalin et al., *Israel Goes on the Offensive in Gaza After Shocking Hamas Invasion*, WALL ST. J., <https://www.wsj.com/world/middle-east/israels-military-says-it-has-regained-control-of-southern-towns-from-hamas-289fa65a> (last updated Oct. 9, 2023, 2:37 PM) (“The enemy does not understand the language of humanity and morals, so we will address him in the language he knows,” [Obeida] said.”).

⁷Summer Said et al., *Iran Helped Plot Attacks on Israel Over Several Weeks*, WALL ST. J., <https://www.wsj.com/world/middle-east/iran-israel-hamas-strike-planning-bbe07b25> (last updated Oct. 8, 2023, 7:32 PM) (“Asked about the meetings, Mahmoud Mirdawi, a senior Hamas official, said the group planned the attacks on its own. ‘This is a Palestinian and Hamas decision,’ [Mirdawi] said.”).

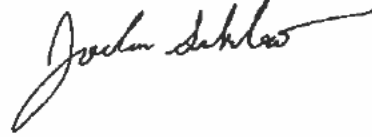
⁸*Islamic Jihad Faction Holding Over 30 Israelis Captive, its Chief Says*, REUTERS, <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/islamic-jihad-faction-holding-over-30-israelis-captive-its-chief-says-2023-10-08/> (Oct. 8, 2023, 2:45 P.M.) (“The captives will not be repatriated ‘till all of our prisoners are released,’ al-Nakhala added, referring to thousands of Palestinians who are in Israeli prisons.”).

We urge you to request the INTERPOL's General Secretariat to immediately issue Green notices against the above named terrorists and against all others whom your office might identify as having taken part in the recent attacks on Americans in Israel.

Respectfully submitted,

Handwritten signature of Jay Alan Sekulow in black ink.

Jay Alan Sekulow
Chief Counsel

Handwritten signature of Jordan Sekulow in black ink.

Jordan Sekulow
Executive Director