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October 10, 2023

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
US House of Representatives
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Leader Jeffries:

We write to you with a heavy heart as our democratic ally, the State of Israel, continues to defend itself against an unprecedented attack by the U.S. designated terrorist organization Hamas. We note that at least 11 American citizens have already been confirmed among the dead, and that many more remain unaccounted for.¹ We thank you for your strong and unequivocal statement in support of Israel and the Jewish people and in condemnation of Hamas, a group whose founding charter literally calls for the genocidal extinction of Jews worldwide.²

As you know, there are those within the Democratic Party who do not share your moral clarity. On Sunday, the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) called on people everywhere to join them at a rally in New York in *support* of what Hamas, a bloodthirsty terrorist organization, did and continues to do to innocent civilians.³ In a statement on social media before the rally, the DSA justified the slaughter, kidnapping, torture, rape, and desecration of helpless human beings. The DSA also dropped all pretense of basing their 'struggle' on the 1967 Six Day War, or on Israeli settlements, or on any Israeli policies or government officials: In their statement⁴ they refer to the entire '75 years of occupation and apartheid,' i.e., the *entire* existence of the modern state of Israel, as justification and provocation for genocidal murder.

At the DSA rally, predictably, the assembled crowd chanted for the genocidal extermination of the Jewish state; held up pictures of Israeli hostages and mutilated corpses; brandished images of swastikas; and openly mocked the dead. Governor Kathy Hochul called the rally

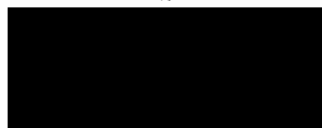
¹ <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2023/10/09/statement-from-president-joe-biden-on-american-citizens-impacted-in-israel/>

² https://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/hamas.asp

³ <https://twitter.com/DemSocialists/status/1710857367515197467>

⁴ <https://twitter.com/nycDSA/status/1710778425303081288>

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“abhorrent and morally repugnant.” In the words of Rep. Ritchie Torres (NY), it was nothing short of glorifying terror,⁵ and to quote Rep. Pat Ryan (NY), “ Hamas terrorists massacred hundreds of Israeli civilians, including women and children. They took dozens more hostage, including Holocaust survivors and American citizens. Jewish families around the world are still awaiting answers, wondering if their loved ones are alive. To know all this, and choose to hold a protest in New York City, home to the largest Jewish population in the United States, is blatant antisemitism.”⁶

As your own spokesperson, Andy Eichar, eloquently stated: “Leader Hakeem Jeffries strongly and unequivocally condemns the hate-filled rally held by the DSA in New York City and any effort to support the barbaric, inhumane and despicable terrorist attack by Hamas on the State of Israel and its citizens.”⁷

We appreciate these strong words, but unfortunately, the DSA has somehow managed to establish quite a foothold in your caucus. Reps. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (NY), Rashida Tlaib (MI), Cori Bush (MO), and Jamaal Bowman (NY) are all DSA members in good standing. As of yet, none of them have distanced themselves from the actions or beliefs of their malevolent DSA benefactors, despite repeated calls from the media for them to make some kind of statement.

In fact, the statements these DSA members have made about the conflict are shocking in the disturbing moral equivalency they attempted to create between the murderers and the murdered: Ocasio-Cortez threw in a remark about the ‘oppression and occupation in the region’ as if that explained the murders, before expressing her opinion that Israel should accept its losses and just declare a ceasefire without responding to the unprovoked attack.⁸ Bowman played the both-sides-are-at-fault-game and complained about the (demonstrably necessary) security blockade of Gaza.⁹ Tlaib removed Hamas from the equation entirely, blaming everything on the victims, openly justifying the terrorists’ ‘resistance’ and even calling for America to cut Israel’s funding in its time of need.¹⁰ Bush, for her part, did a little bit of everything, blaming Israel for being attacked, calling for Israel not to respond, and urging America to end its support for her closest ally to help achieve ‘peace’ and curry favor with a designated terrorist organization.¹¹

To be clear, this is not about Members with different views surrounding the greater Israeli-Palestinian conflict. This is about an organization, the DSA, that openly supports the rape, torture, and murder of innocent people by terrorists, and the fact that several members of your own party, who are leaders of and supported by this group, appear to share the belief that it is sometimes alright to support an antisemitic genocidal terror group. A person can unabashedly support the human rights of Palestinian Arabs without also supporting or

⁵ <https://twitter.com/RitchieTorres/status/1710795520334090458>

⁶ <https://twitter.com/PatRyanUC/status/1711078805941444611>

⁷ <https://twitter.com/marcrod97/status/1711119175861600418/photo/1>

⁸ <https://ocasio-cortez.house.gov/media/press-releases/statement-rep-ocasio-cortez-violence-israel-and-palestine>

⁹ <https://twitter.com/RepBowman/status/1710711916484579524?s=20>

¹⁰ <https://www.instagram.com/p/CyJnSPcv2q7/>

¹¹ <https://twitter.com/RepCori/status/1710825310642466999>

justifying genocidal terror. And if they cannot, then they are nothing but a terrorist supporter.

Per Rule XXIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives (118th Congress) Code of Official Conduct, 1: “A Member, Delegate, Resident Commissioner, officer, or employee of the House shall behave at all times in a manner that shall reflect creditably on the House.” It should go without saying that there should be no room in Congress for any member of any party who cannot distance themselves from an organization that openly supports murder, rape, kidnapping, torture, genocide, and terror.

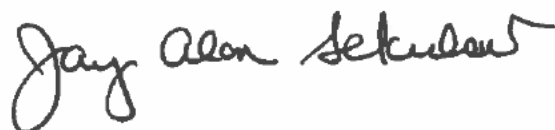
As Leader of the Democratic Caucus, it is your responsibility to call out the ethics violations on your side of the aisle. As explained in the House Ethics Manual¹²:

“Violations of ethical standards may lead to various penalties. The U.S. Constitution¹³ authorizes each House of Congress to punish its Members for disorderly behavior and, with the concurrence of two thirds, to expel a Member. The House may also punish a Member by censure, reprimand, condemnation, reduction of seniority, fine, or other sanction determined to be appropriate.”¹⁴

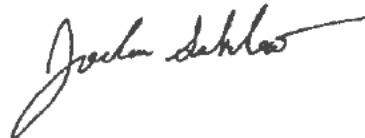
We hereby respectfully request that you demand a statement from the Members of your caucus who are also members of the DSA, clarifying once and for all whether they agree that Hamas’ terrorism was not in any way justified and that Israel has a right to exist, and distancing themselves from the openly antisemitic terrorist-supporting DSA. To the extent that they refuse, we request that you initiate a formal Ethics Committee inquiry and impose appropriate sanctions on Members who do not have the human decency to distance themselves from genocide.

There are very few things that our divided government can agree on, but we hope and pray that there is at least some line of common humanity left that binds us all as Americans. Not supporting genocide should not be too much to ask.

Sincerely,



Jay Alan Sekulow
Chief Counsel
American Center for Law & Justice



Jordan Sekulow
Executive Director
American Center for Law & Justice

¹² <https://ethics.house.gov/house-ethics-manual> at 3

¹³ U.S. Const., art. I, § 5, cl. 2.

¹⁴ See generally Joint Comm. on Congressional Operations, House of Representatives Exclusion, Censure, and Expulsion Cases from 1789 to 1973, 93d Cong., 1st Sess. (Comm. Print 1973); Committee Rule 24(e).

cc:

Minority Whip Katherine Clark
Democratic Caucus Chairman Pete Aguilar
Assistant Minority Leader James Clyburn
Ranking Member Gregory Meeks
Vice Ranking Member Kathy Manning
Rep. Brad Sherman (Co-Chair, Israel Allies Caucus)
Rep. Brendan Boyle
Rep. Lou Correa
Rep. Lois Frankel
Rep. Ted Lieu
Rep. Grace Meng
Rep. Juan Vargas
Rep. Frederica Wilson

Addendum

DSA Tweets:

 **DSA**
@DemSocialists


DSA is steadfast in expressing our solidarity with Palestine.


Today's events are a direct result of Israel's apartheid regime—a regime that receives billions in funding from the United States.

End the violence. End the Occupation. Free Palestine. 1/5

11:19 PM · Oct 7, 2023 · 2.6M Views


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 **NYC-DSA**
@nycDSA


 Tomorrow, October 8, at 1PM. Times Square.

In solidarity with the Palestinian people and their right to resist 75 years of occupation and apartheid.

 FREE PALESTINE!

 **The People's Forum** @PeoplesForumNYC · Oct 7

 NEW YORK CITY: ALL OUT FOR PALESTINE!!! 

 1PM, Sunday Oct 8

 Times Square, Broadway & 42nd

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Statement of Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez:



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STATEMENT: Rep. Ocasio-Cortez on Violence in Israel and Palestine

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October 9, 2023 [Press Release](#)

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Today, Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (NY-14) released a statement on the violence in Israel and Palestine.

"Today is devastating for all those seeking a lasting peace and respect for human rights in Israel and Palestine. I condemn Hamas' attack in the strongest possible terms. No child and family should ever endure this kind of violence and fear, and this violence will not solve the ongoing oppression and occupation in the region. An immediate ceasefire and de-escalation is urgently needed to save lives."

Issues: [Foreign Policy](#)

Statement of Rep. Jamaal Bowman:



Congressman Jamaal Bowman
@RepBowman



My statement on the escalating violence in the Middle East:

Statement on Hamas' Attacks

I strongly condemn the horrific attacks by Hamas and am saddened by the loss of precious lives, especially on the holy day of Simchat Torah.

We need a way to end this deadly violence that is killing and traumatizing generations of Israelis and Palestinians alike—including the blockade of Gaza. I have been to the Gaza border and know that Israelis and Palestinians are constantly living in fear. We must work harder to ensure peace in the region.

As new information continues to emerge, my team and I will be following this closely especially since several of our Westchester service members are in the area of the attacks.



ALT

1:41 PM · Oct 7, 2023 · 161.9K Views

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Statement of Rep. Rashida Tlaib:

"I grieve the Palestinian and Israeli lives lost yesterday, today, and every day. I am determined as ever to fight for a just future where everyone can live in peace, without fear and with true freedom, equal rights, and human dignity. The path to that future must include lifting the blockade, ending the occupation, and dismantling the apartheid system that creates the suffocating, dehumanizing conditions that can lead to resistance. The failure to recognize the violent reality of living under siege, occupation, and apartheid makes no one safer. No person, no child anywhere should have to suffer or live in fear of violence. We cannot ignore the humanity in each other. As long as our country provides billions in unconditional funding to support the apartheid government, this heartbreaking cycle of violence will continue."

Rep. Rashida Tlaib

rashidatlaib • Follow

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I grieve the Palestinian and Israeli lives lost yesterday, today, and every day. I am determined as ever to fight for a just future where everyone can live in peace, without fear and with true freedom, equal rights, and human dignity.

The path to that future must include lifting the blockade, ending the occupation, and dismantling the apartheid system that creates the suffocating, dehumanizing conditions that can lead to resistance.

The failure to recognize the violent reality of living under siege, occupation, and apartheid makes no one safer. No person, no child anywhere should have to suffer or live in fear of violence. We cannot ignore the humanity in each other.

   
31,506 likes
1 DAY AGO

Statement of Rep. Cori Bush:



Congresswoman Cori Bush ✓
@RepCori



My statement on the ongoing violence in Palestine and Israel ↓


CORI BUSH
Congresswoman for Missouri's 1st

"I am heartbroken by the ongoing violence in Palestine and Israel, and I mourn the over 250 Israeli and 230 Palestinian lives that have been lost today, and the thousands injured, following attacks by Hamas militants on Israeli border towns and Israeli military bombardment of Gaza. I strongly condemn the targeting of civilians and I urge an immediate ceasefire and de-escalation to prevent further loss of life.

Our immediate focus must be saving lives, but our ultimate focus must be on a just and lasting peace that ensures safety for everyone in the region. Violations of human rights do not justify more violations of human rights, and a military response will only exacerbate the suffering of Palestinians and Israelis alike.

As part of achieving a just and lasting peace, we must do our part to stop this violence and trauma by ending U.S. government support for Israeli military occupation and apartheid.

I am continuing to closely monitor the situation and my Office is ready to support residents of the First District with family members and loved ones in the region."

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9:11 PM · Oct 7, 2023 · 4.9M Views

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