

Israel Under Fire: Meeting Elected & Community Leaders

Talking Points

Thank you for meeting with us today. We represent the [city] Jewish community, including [list organizations].

- Introduce the group. Identify any constituents in the meeting.

We are here today because Israel & her people are facing an unprecedented, historic attack.

- On October 7th, 2023--the 50th anniversary of the Yom Kippur War & a Jewish holiday-- Hamas terrorists launched an unprecedented attack on Israel from Gaza.
- In the first day of the attack, over 1,300 Israelis were massacred--including over 250 at a music festival--3,300 wounded, & an estimated 150 civilians & soldiers taken hostage in Gaza, including children, the elderly, & Holocaust survivors.
- **This was the worst day of violence against the Jewish people since the Holocaust. It's being compared to Israel's 9/11.**
- As President Joe Biden said: "Hamas does not stand for the Palestinian's people's right to dignity and self-determination. Its stated purpose is the annihilation of the State of Israel and the Jewish people."
- Many in the international community has also [condemned](#) the terrorist acts by Hamas, expressing solidarity with the victims. Numerous [leaders](#) from around the globe have echoed these sentiments, [condemning](#) the violent onslaught on Israel.
- This is a critical moment of support for the entire Jewish community. There is not a Jewish person alive who is more than 1 degree of separation from the events in Israel. The emotional impact of the horrific images and responses in support of Hamas demonstrate that even after the Holocaust, the world needs moral courage to stand up to antisemitism. We must not allow anti-Zionism to dehumanize and devalue Jewish life.

Asks

We urge you to issue a statement in support of Israel, her people, & her right to defend herself.

- **We must make clear that Israel has every right to defend itself & protect its citizens from terrorism, rocket fire, invasions, & massacres.** This shows that Hamas and its determination to humiliate, dehumanize, and destroy Israel requires the fullest response possible.
- This atrocity is different in kind from any other violence from the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. As President Biden stated, these acts were committed by pure evil and are well beyond the pale in terms of the ongoing conflict between Israel and her neighbors.
- We urge you to join hundreds of elected officials across the country in making a statement. (A list of Members of Congress who have made statements is available [here](#). Check to see if members of your community's elected delegation are listed. University of Florida President Ben Sasse's statement [here](#). Oracle CEO statement of solidarity [here](#).)
- *If the community leader has ALREADY made a statement*, THANK them for their statement & urge them to continue supporting Israel in the days, weeks, & months ahead.

We urge you to support a substantial allocation of \$500 million for the Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP) in the President's spending bill for emergency aid. (For Federal officials only).

- The Nonprofit Security Grant Program, administered by FEMA through the Department of Homeland Security, provides funding to secure faith-based nonprofit organizations & their institutions from terrorism.
- Past conflicts between Israel & Hamas have led to a **dramatic uptick in antisemitic & anti-Zionist incidents** across North America. Jewish communities are [bracing](#) for potential terror attacks targeting college campuses, synagogues, & community institutions.
- There are reports of [bomb threats](#), Jewish students' doors being [set on fire](#) in their dorm rooms, and Jewish students being [assaulted](#) on campus.



We urge you to wear a Blue Ribbon to show support and solidarity for hostages.

- #BlueRibbonsforIsrael is a global solidarity campaign. The blue ribbon symbolizes support and solidarity for the safe return of the hostages taken by Hamas terrorists in Israel. It symbolizes solidarity with the hostages, their families, and all who care about their safety.

Do's & Don'ts

DO

- [FILL OUT THE POST-MEETING SURVEY FORM!](#)
- Stick to the talking points
- Demonstrate the unity of the Jewish community
- Remember to take a picture! (Make sure to hashtag #SupportIsrael)
- Let your Federation/JCRC know about the meeting!
- Thank the leader for taking the meeting & hearing your voice

DON'T

- **Lie or make up information. If you don't know something, offer to follow up.**
- **Argue with the legislator or staffer.** Make your points politely and stay on message. If needed, acknowledge your difference of opinion.
- **Be intimidated by your legislators.** As a constituent, you have every right to be there, to share your views, and to attempt to persuade your elected officials.
- **Allow any one speaker or issue to take up all of the time.** You might only have 15 minutes. Watch the clock and be prepared to ask if you may move on to another subject.
- **Make commitments on behalf of your group that you haven't discussed in advance.** Tell the person you are meeting with that you or a Washington staff members will get back to them.

