

January 21, 2025

Hon. Donald J. Trump
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We extend our heartfelt congratulations on your most welcome return to the White House! We look forward to working with you and your team in your second term.

In that connection, we write to express profound concern that the policy you pursued to great effect during your first term of ensuring the security of the State of Israel and punishing her enemies is at risk of being replaced by that of the Biden administration, which relentlessly did the opposite.

Your laudable effort to achieve prior to your inauguration the release of the hostages Hamas seized during its murderous invasion of Israel on October 7, 2023, was misapplied to create pressure on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his government to accept terms utterly inconsistent with the safety of Israelis and U.S. vital interests. The deal as it stands will mean victory for Hamas, defeat for Israel and another war in a matter of years, at most.

Such problematic terms include requirements for Israel to:

- halt attacks on Hamas despite evidence that it is continuing to prepare for further warfare against the Jewish State, including the resumption of construction of tunnels;
- suspend air operations, including vital surveillance activities, for a minimum of ten hours per day;
- in exchange for 33 dead or living hostages, send 1,650 convicted terrorists back to Gaza or to Judea and Samaria, the latter of which are increasingly becoming war zones;
- in the unlikely event a second phase of the ceasefire deal actually eventuates, in exchange for the remaining living or deceased hostages, release *another* 3,000 imprisoned terrorists, who will go on to kill hundreds, if not thousands, including Americans;
- withdraw from *all* of Gaza – including, in due course, entirely from the strategically critical Philadelphi Corridor between Rafah and Egypt and the buffer zone established in Gaza to protect the Israeli border;
- remove Israeli forces from the Netzarim corridor separating north and south Gaza, thereby eliminating the logistics structure it affords the IDF for rapid-reaction operations throughout the entire Strip; and
- enable the 300,000 residents of northern Gaza to return there, including fighting-age males, with “remote monitoring” by Israel, but the actual screening conducted by Qataris and Egyptians.

These are the sorts of requirements the Biden administration long sought to impose on Israel in its determination to save Hamas and weaken Israel. In fact, the deal was purposefully structured to embody the Biden administration’s efforts to leverage Israel’s desire for the return of her hostages to force on the Jewish State major strategic concessions to Hamas that leave her weakened and locked into a failed peace process that prioritizes establishing a Palestinian state

over expanding the Abraham Accords. The problem of the outgoing administration was not weakness in implementing good deals, but that they sought bad deals that inherently undermined U.S. interests.

Strong allies can defend themselves and help us reduce our regional footprint. Weakened allies require constant help and demand endless American involvement. The Biden administration preferred the latter to control our allies to force them into appeasing our regional enemies.

The foundations of an America First policy are the most important to successfully establish. It is thus imperative that your administration enter the White House free of the policies and agreements deliberately designed by the outgoing administration to drive a wedge between the United States and Israel and to shackle your administration in order to prevent it from realizing its far more powerful and grounded regional foreign policy based on strong, victorious, self-reliant and burden-carrying allies.

In short, the Gaza ceasefire deal, and what would flow from it, are not compatible with: your past, extraordinary and highly successful leadership in fostering a genuinely more peaceful Middle East; your campaign promises to help Israel be victorious over her enemies *and ours*; or the policies of your incoming administration as described in recent days by key subordinates like National Security Advisor-designate Mike Waltz, Secretary of State-designate Marco Rubio and Secretary of Defense-designate Pete Hegseth.

We respectfully urge you to reiterate that you expect all of the hostages, alive and deceased, to be released by Hamas *now*. Either way, Israel must finish the job of destroying that monstrous terrorist organization. We didn't allow the Nazis to govern Germany. Israel, and we, cannot allow Hamas to govern Gaza. Hamas needs to surrender or be killed. And Israel should have your full and vocal support in achieving one of those outcomes or the other as swiftly as possible, as she does ours.

Sincerely,

Frank Gaffney, President, Institute for America's Future
Dr. David Wurmser, Senior Analyst, Center for Security Policy
Mat Staver, Founder and Chairman, Liberty Counsel
Daniel Greenfield, Executive Vice President, David Horowitz Freedom Center
John Stemberger, President, Liberty Counsel Action
Trevor Loudon, Senior Fellow, Institute for America's Future
Dr. Karen Siegemund, President, Freedom Alliance
Summer Ingram, Vice President of Strategic Affairs, Liberty Counsel Action
Colonel Rob Maness, USAF (Ret.), Senior Fellow, Institute for America's Future
David Yerushalmi, Esq., Co-founder, American Freedom Law Center
Jonathan Alexandre, Vice President of Governmental Affairs, Liberty Counsel
Cindy Matthews, Vice President, Covenant Journey
Hon. George Rasley Jr., Editor-in-Chief, *Conservative HQ*
Rev. Kevin Jessip, President, The Return International
Richard Harris, Executive Director, Truth and Liberty Coalition
Paul Guisand, Congressional Liaison, Christians United for Israel
Josh Hammer, Senior Editor, *Newsweek*