

United States Senate

October 7, 2024

Rabbi Yitzchok Minkowicz
Chabad Lubavitch of Southwest Florida

Dear Rabbi Minkowicz:

One year ago, the world watched in horror as Iran-backed Hamas terrorists attacked our great ally Israel. We saw the horrific images of an elderly woman, a wheelchair-bound Holocaust survivor, being dragged down the street by Hamas terrorists. We saw reports of children being kidnapped, families being murdered in their homes and the bodies of innocent Israeli citizens being desecrated in public displays of terrorism and brutality. Today, one year later, there are still Americans and Israelis who were viciously beaten and dragged into captivity by these murderous thugs being held hostage in Gaza.

In the months that followed this heinous attack, we saw an increase in antisemitism across our nation and throughout the world. As threats to Jewish Americans and Israel continue to rise, I am committed to calling out these hateful attacks at every turn and working together with you, local, state and federal leaders to ensure safety and security for all Floridians. The Jewish Community has never faltered in its resiliency and commitment to living peacefully amongst its neighbors. We must stand together to put an end to these attacks.

Still today, we are seeing violence and antisemitism against Israel and the Jewish community. Most recently, the terror and devastation unleashed on Israel last week by Iran and its evil proxies, Hamas and Hezbollah terrorists, have horrified the world. Innocent Americans and Israelis are still being held captive by Iran-backed Hamas terrorists and last month we mourned the loss of six hostages whose beautiful lives were stolen by Hamas terrorists. Once again, this act of murder at the hands of soul-less barbarians cannot be ignored. We pray for the people of Israel, our Jewish community and the families of the hostages, all of whom feel and live through the trauma of this evil act of barbarism each and every day. We must do everything in our power as Americans to bring these hostages home and stand with Israel during their existential fight for regional security. During this difficult time, we aim to honor and remember the countless victims whose lives were taken far too soon.

Israel is still at war, and I have been clear there should be zero tolerance for wavering on our ironclad commitment to support our closest ally. The United States must stand strongly with Israel as it continues to defend its citizens and homeland. I proudly stand with Israel and the Jewish Community and I thank you for your commitment to uniting people to do the same.

Sincerely,



Rick Scott
United States Senator