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**Agudath
Israel
of America**
אגודת ישראל באמריקה

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Vice President for Government Affairs
Washington Director and Counsel

STAND BY ISRAEL AT THIS MOMENT OF GRAVE DANGER

TO: The Honorable Members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives

As rockets continue to fall on terrified Israeli civilians, and as deaths and casualties rise, I write on behalf of Agudath Israel of America to urge you to express strong support for Israel and its right to defend itself against Hamas terror. It is a message that the nation and your constituents must hear.

President Biden has stated his support for Israel's right to defend its people and has condemned Hamas's launching of rockets by the thousands against Israeli cities. Secretary of State Blinken has stated firmly that these attacks "need to stop immediately." We know that these are sentiments and goals shared by both sides of the aisle.

But it is vital that Congress also be heard at this very critical moment of such grave danger. Its moral voice must publicly counter the distortions spouted by those hostile to Israel who seek to draw a comparison between Hamas terror and Israeli retaliation.

There is no "equivalence" at all between Hamas's indiscriminately lobbing thousands of rockets at civilian populations and Israel surgically targeting – with prior warnings to evacuate – launching pads that have been deliberately embedded in civilian neighborhoods. And there is no "equivalence" between Hamas, which avowedly continues to seek the destruction of the Jewish State, and Israel, which has shown that it will extend its hand to those in the Arab world who seek peace.

As I write above, Congress's strong and unequivocal support for Israel as it fights terror will show leadership, both to the nation and to constituents, and a commitment that we stand by our cherished American democratic ideals and by our valued allies. Perhaps more importantly, it will clearly demonstrate, as it has in the past, to those who reject Israel's existence with murder and mayhem that they have no option but to stop the violence and accept co-existence.

Sincerely yours,

Rabbi Abba Cohen

RAC/me