Republican Governors Join to Call on Biden Administration to Support Israel

October 13, 2023

President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

We pledge our steadfast support to our ally Israel following the appalling attacks perpetrated against Israel's sovereignty and innocent civilians on October 7, 2023. We write today to make clear that our states absolutely condemn these heinous acts of terrorism led by Iran-backed Hamas and proudly stand with Israel and the Jewish people. Your administration's initial response—including a call for a ceasefire—created dangerous confusion that has only further emboldened state-sponsors of terror and their henchmen to continue attacking Israel. Unfortunately, this type of international chaos and violence is a direct result of your administration's appeasement-first foreign policy. Now is the moment to radically change course. We call on you to project American strength by, among other things, clearly and unequivocally condemning these attacks and supporting Israel's unquestioned right to respond and defend itself. When the lives of American citizens hang in the balance, the American President must speak boldly and act decisively.

First, we call on you to prioritize the protection of Americans who remain in harm's way. To date, we have learned that Hamas terrorists murdered 27 American citizens and have taken an unknown number of Americans hostage. We pray for the families of those killed and missing. And we understand there is a process underway to locate American citizens taken hostage or otherwise missing and to bring them home swiftly and safely. But the lack of transparency in this process leads us to question whether your administration is pursuing this objective with maximum energy and diligence. Your administration should not rest until these Americans safely return to American soil. We also ask that you promptly communicate any continuing losses of American life to the states so that we can provide support and assistance to impacted families.

Second, we call on you to provide unequivocal support to Israel as it defends itself and works to eliminate the Iran-backed terror group Hamas. Not only does Israel have the right to self-defense, it has the duty to respond with overwhelming force against Hamas to ensure this never happens again. Israel can, and

should, take all actions necessary to eliminate all threats—terrorist or otherwise —to its sovereignty and its people. We must stop holding Israel to an impossible national security standard to which we as Americans would never submit. America should leverage its influence in the international community to ensure that Israel has the latitude to do what it must.

Third, we call on you to cease your appeasement and empowerment of Iran, the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism, including an immediate freeze of the $6 billion ransom payment made to the terror state and an expansion of sanctions against the Iranian regime. After your administration relaxed billions of dollars in sanctions, it negotiated a ransom payment that has provided Iran with additional means and confidence to reallocate funds to support terrorism. You must also immediately cut off foreign aid to Hamas- or Hezbollah-controlled territories. If we're serious about not negotiating with terrorists, we must also stop allowing U.S. tax dollars to fall into their hands.

Finally, we reiterate our call to close the Southern Border and protect Americans from similar threats at

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