

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

October 29, 2024

H.E. Mr. Emmanuel Macron
President of the French Republic
Palais de l'Élysée
55 Rue du Faubourg Saint-Honoré,
75008
Paris, France

Dear President Macron,

We are writing to express our deep concern over your recent call to halt arms deliveries to Israel. Just over one year ago, Hamas, an Iranian-backed terrorist group, brutally murdered 1,200 people, including 48 French citizens, and took over 240 hostages. Today, 101 remain captive in Gaza, including two French-Israeli dual citizens.^{1 2} Your comments to halt arms and weapons deliveries to Israel will further embolden Iran and its proxies to escalate their attacks against Israel, undermining the State's right to defend herself and her citizens.

Since October 7, Iran, the world's largest state sponsor of terrorism, has been orchestrating a targeted military campaign against Israel, both directly and indirectly through terrorist proxies on multiple fronts. This includes Hamas, Hezbollah, the Houthis, Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ), and militias in Iraq and Syria. This coalition of terror shares Iran's mission to annihilate the State of Israel, kill Jews, and undermine global democracy.

The recent attack on Israel by Iran marks a significant and disturbing escalation of aggression toward our closest ally in the region. Iran fired more than 180 ballistic missiles at Israel – the largest single ballistic missile attack in history.³ Currently, Israel is fighting a seven-front war against Iran and its terrorist proxies. Now, more than ever, Israel needs strong allies reinforcing their commitment to her security, not adopting policies that embolden those seeking her destruction.

The threats posed by Iran and its “Axis of Resistance” are not just limited solely to Israel and the Middle East, but to the existing world order, and to the lives of American and French citizens. It

¹ Israel National News, “Israeli-French hostages' families meet with President Macron,” October 7, 2024, <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/news/397306>

² Macron, E. [@EmmanuelMacron]. (2024, October 17). X.com. Yahya Sinwar Was the Main Person Responsible for the Terrorist Attacks and Barbaric Acts of October 7th. Today, I Think With Emotion of the Victims, Including 48 of Our Compatriots, and Their Loved Ones. France Demands the Release of All Hostages Still Held by Hamas. [Tweet]. https://x.com/EmmanuelMacron/status/1846975328805179875?ref_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwtgr%5Etweet

³ AJC. (2024, October 2). Iranian regime targets millions of Israelis in largest ever ballistic missile attack. <https://www.ajc.org/news/iranian-regime-targets-millions-of-israelis-in-largest-ever-ballistic-missile-attack>

is crucial that France support Israel in its efforts to root out terrorism, defend her citizens, and secure the safe return of all the remaining 101 hostages before it is too late.

We strongly urge you to reconsider your position and instead focus on diplomatic efforts that enhance democracy and security in the region. Given France's longstanding embodiment of its motto "liberty, equality, and fraternity," it is paramount that France continues to stand with its international partners and support our greatest, democratic ally in the Middle East. Thank you for your attention to this matter and we look forward to your response.

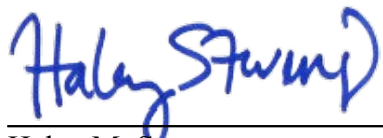
Sincerely,



Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



Joe Wilson
Member of Congress
Chairman
Subcommittee on Middle
East,
North Africa, and Central
Asia



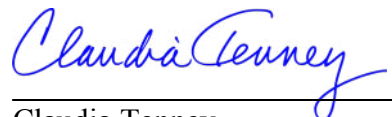
Haley M. Stevens
Member of Congress



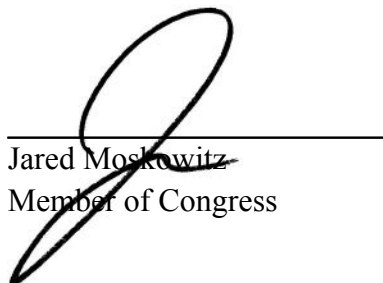
Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress



Donald Norcross
Member of Congress



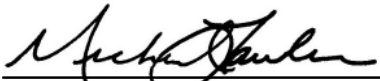
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Michael V. Lawler
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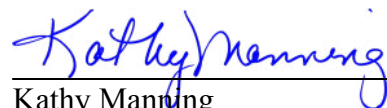
Michael R. Turner
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Dan Goldman
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Ritchie Torres
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress