The Honorable Antony Blinken  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C St. NW  
Washington, D.C. 20520  

October 10, 2023  

Dear Secretary Blinken,  

Since Hamas’ indiscriminate attack on Israel Saturday morning, our offices have received harrowing reports from constituents who remain in Israel and are seeking to return to the United States as soon as possible. We write to express our grave concern for their wellbeing and safety. Given the rapidly escalating situation as Israel launches a counteroffensive, it is imperative that you use all tools at your disposal to return all U.S. nationals in Israel home who wish to do so.  

Almost 50 years to the day of the start of the Yom Kippur War, Hamas terrorists crossed the border and began slaughtering Israelis and abducting hostages in towns in southern Israel. To date, thousands of lives—including 11 Americans—have been lost due to Hamas’ indiscriminate and brutal assault since Saturday. Hamas’ heinous actions also include taking over 150 Israeli hostages, which our offices have received reports that Americans are among those taken hostage in Gaza, including New Yorkers. It has been devastating to see the horrific accounts of those around the country taking shelter from the thousands of rockets launched from Gaza. This past weekend was meant to be one of happiness and celebration for the Jewish community. Instead, our constituents were left distraught and in tears fearing for the safety of their friends and loved ones in Israel.  

While we appreciate the steps the Biden administration is taking to provide additional security assistance to Israel, we urge the State Department to use all resources at its disposal, including charter flights, to help those Americans that remain in Israel and wish to return to the United States. As you are aware, airlines have cancelled most flights out of Ben Gurion Airport, and some have suspended operations in the region. As the number of casualties continues to rise, our constituents who remain in Israel fear for their lives. We ask that you consider charter flights and military options for evacuation, simultaneously.  

At this harrowing moment in Israel’s history, it is more important than ever that every American who is looking to return home has the opportunity to do so. We look forward to your quick response.  

Sincerely,
Grace Meng
Member of Congress

Nicole Malliotakis
Member of Congress

Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress

J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress

Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress

Andrea Salinas
Member of Congress

Yadira Caraveo, M.D.
Member of Congress

Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress

Ji-Tokuda
Member of Congress

Dan Goldman
Member of Congress

Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress

Elissa Slotkin
Member of Congress
Lizzie Fletcher  
Member of Congress

Susie Lee  
Member of Congress

Mary Gay Scanlon  
Member of Congress

Katie Porter  
Member of Congress

Joseph D. Morelle  
Member of Congress

Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress

Ann McLane Kuster  
Member of Congress

Veronica Escobar  
Member of Congress

Jasmine Crockett  
Member of Congress

Brittany Petersen  
Member of Congress

Kat Cammack  
Member of Congress

Troy Carter  
Member of Congress
Shri Thanaedar  
Member of Congress

Marilyn Strickland  
Member of Congress

Jake Auchincloss  
Member of Congress

Sean Casten  
Member of Congress

Shontel M. Brown  
Member of Congress

Brad Sherman  
Member of Congress

Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Member of Congress

Jefferson Van Drew  
Member of Congress

Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress

Haley M. Stevens  
Member of Congress

Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Member of Congress

Adrian Smith  
Member of Congress
Michael V. Lawler  
Member of Congress

Nick LaLota  
Member of Congress

Anthony D’Esposito  
Member of Congress

Elise M. Stefanik  
Member of Congress

Randy K. Weber, Sr.  
Member of Congress

Maria Elvira Salazar  
Member of Congress

Andrew R. Garbarino  
Member of Congress

Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress

Mike Bost  
Member of Congress

Jahana Hayes  
Member of Congress

Frederica S. Wilson  
Member of Congress

Paul D. Tonko  
Member of Congress
Zach Nunn
Member of Congress

Dina Titus
Member of Congress

Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress

Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress

Dan Crenshaw
Member of Congress

Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D.
Member of Congress

Mike Levin
Member of Congress

Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress

Morgan McCarver
Member of Congress

Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress

Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress

Lloyd Smucker
Member of Congress
Tom McClintock
Member of Congress

Kim Schrier, M.D.
Member of Congress

Jared Moskowitz
Member of Congress

Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress

Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress

Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress

Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress

Thomas H. Kean, Jr.
Member of Congress

Ritchie Torres
Member of Congress
Bill Posey  
Member of Congress

Kevin Mullin  
Member of Congress

Donald M. Payne, Jr.  
Member of Congress

Kathy Castor  
Member of Congress

Judy Chu  
Member of Congress

Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress

Garret Graves  
Member of Congress

Tim Burchett  
Member of Congress

Mariannette Miller-Meeks, M.D.  
Member of Congress

Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress

Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress

Jonathan L. Jackson  
Member of Congress
C. A. Dutch Ruppersberger
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress

Michael Guest
Member of Congress

Al Green
Member of Congress
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress

Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress

Brad R. Wenstrup, D.P.M.
Member of Congress

Emilia Strong Sykes
Member of Congress

Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress
Lauren Boebert  
Member of Congress

Jesus G. "Chuy" Garcia  
Member of Congress

Andy Kim  
Member of Congress

Mark E. Amodei  
Member of Congress

Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress

Dan Newhouse  
Member of Congress

Mark Takano  
Member of Congress

Ashley Hinson  
Member of Congress

Barry Loudermilk  
Member of Congress

Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress

Jimmy Gomez  
Member of Congress

Randy Feenstra  
Member of Congress
Pete Stauber
Member of Congress

Dwight Evans
Member of Congress

Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress

Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress