

MEMO

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Congress Voices Support for Israel Amid Wave of Terrorism

In response to the recent wave of Palestinian terrorist attacks in Israel, members of Congress from both parties are speaking out in support of the Jewish state and calling on the Palestinian leadership to stop inciting violence and to act to prevent terrorism. Below is a sampling of statements from members of the House and Senate.

House Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer (D-MD)

“The violent attacks against Israeli civilians over the past several days must not be met with silence from the international community but with strong condemnation. I continue to stand unequivocally behind Israel’s fundamental right to defend itself and its people from violence and terror. Palestinian President Abbas and his government have a responsibility to abide by their obligations to prevent attacks against Israelis emanating from territory under their control, and the burden is on them to prevent further attacks.”

House Foreign Affairs Middle East & North Africa Subcommittee Chairman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL)

“I condemn the recent violence and murders against Israeli citizens but it reaffirms once again how Israel's supposed partner for peace, the Palestinian Authority, has been engaged in a vicious campaign of incitement to violence. ... We must hold Abu Mazen accountable for his inflammatory statements at the UN General Assembly and urge him to take accountability for the current wave of violence and to take measures to deescalate the situation.”

Sen. Charles Schumer (D-NY)

“My thoughts and prayers are with all those in Israel who have been impacted by the recent appalling terrorist attacks on innocent civilians. The leaders of the Palestinian community, including Mr. Abbas, must swiftly condemn the violence, and they must aggressively repudiate the incitement and hateful rhetoric that is fueling it. It would be far better and more productive for the Palestinian people if their leadership would spend less time condoning or excusing hate-based violence and more time sitting down with Israel to come up with a peaceful resolution.”

Sen. Mark Kirk (R-IL)

“The United States stands with Israel, whose leaders and people have shown resilience, restraint and resolve amid Palestinian incitement and mounting terror attacks against unarmed Israeli civilians. It is critical that the Obama Administration and Congress press Palestinian Authority

President Mahmoud Abbas, who regrettably used his speech before the United Nations General Assembly to worsen tensions, to act decisively to end the growing wave of Palestinian violence and return to bilateral peace negotiations with Israel.”

Sen. Bob Menendez (D-NJ)

“I stand behind Israel’s fundamental right to defend itself and its people from violence and terror. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and his government have an obligation to stop these attacks, to cease the harsh rhetoric that incites them, and to negotiate in good faith for a peaceful resolution. It is imperative that the United States continue to ensure that Israel has the resources it needs to enhance its security and meet these threats.”

Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL)

“Israelis are under attack as they seek to do nothing more than go about their daily lives. It’s time for the United States to make clear that we stand with Israel and reject President Abbas’s ugly tactics, which are leaving Israel without a partner for peace and only leaving his people with a future that is more uncertain, less peaceful, and less prosperous.”

House Foreign Affairs Committee Ranking Member Eliot Engel (D-NY)

“Violence will never pave the way to Palestinian self-determination. Terrorism will never build the foundation of a Palestinian state. That approach only undermines the Palestinian cause. Palestinian leaders must do everything in their power to encourage calm and quell the violence. Incitement toward these attacks—including blatant excuses for violence—is unacceptable.”

Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX)

“It is long past time for the United States and the international community to hold the Palestinians accountable for their incitement and support for terrorism, including through the financial payment to Palestinian terrorists who are jailed in Israel for committing acts of terrorism.

[...] There is no moral equivalence between Palestinian terrorism and the obligation of Israel to act in defense of its people. To the Israeli people, especially those who are victims of terrorism and their families: I proudly stand in solidarity with you during this challenging time.”

House Appropriations Committee Ranking Member Nita Lowey (D-NY)

“The recent and vicious attacks against innocent Israelis are unacceptable and must be stopped. They are a tragic reminder of the constant threat of terrorist attacks that face the Israeli people. All Palestinian leaders must take immediate steps to condemn these senseless acts of violence and prevent further incitement.”

For a complete list of statements, visit the [AIPAC News Hub](#).