



CONGRESSMAN WILEY NICKEL
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
NORTH CAROLINA'S THIRTEENTH DISTRICT

January 17, 2024

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

Dear Secretary Blinken,

I write to you today to express my appreciation for the leadership and support that the Biden Administration has demonstrated towards our ally, Israel, since the terrorist attacks of October 7, 2023. Your commitment to Israel's security and right to self-defense resonates strongly with the shared democratic values of our two countries.

While recognizing Israel's legitimate security concerns and its right to defend its citizens against Hamas, I believe it is also imperative that we address the disturbing death toll and humanitarian crisis affecting the Palestinian people in Gaza. The number of casualties for innocent Palestinian civilians is far too high in this conflict. I expect the Israel Defense Force to proceed in dismantling Hamas with precision and integrity while avoiding civilian harm.

I urge the U.S. Government to collaborate closely with Israel, Egypt, and other regional allies to effectively distribute humanitarian aid and facilitate essential medical care for the Palestinian people in Gaza. This coordinated effort is vital to ensure that aid reaches those most in need promptly and securely while also respecting Israel's security concerns.

At the same time, I strongly support the continuation of efforts to dismantle and disarm Hamas terrorists, who pose a significant threat to both Israeli and Palestinian civilians. It is essential that our strategies encompass a dual approach: one that ensures Israel's security and sovereignty and another that alleviates the suffering of innocent Palestinian civilians.

I am confident that under your leadership, the U.S. State Department can make meaningful progress in achieving these objectives. It is crucial that we work towards a future where both Israelis and Palestinians can live in peace and security, free from fear and violence. Both groups have rightful claims to establish and maintain their own states in their ancestral land. Your role in navigating this conflict will be a pivotal step towards lasting stability in the region.

Thank you for your continued commitment to this complex and significant issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wiley Nickel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Wiley" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Nickel".

Wiley Nickel
Member of Congress