

United States Senate

February 29, 2024

COMMITTEES
ARMED SERVICES
JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE
JUDICIARY
SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

President Joseph R. Biden
The White House,
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20502

President Biden,

We write regarding your February 1, 2024 Executive Order 14115 and February 8, 2024 National Security Memorandum 20 undermining Israeli operations against Hamas in Gaza. Both documents undercut our most valuable alliance in the Middle East. We call on you to rescind both documents and to sanction terrorists and their supporters instead of their victims.

Your February 1 EO grants the State Department broad authority to arbitrarily punish Israelis in Judea and Samaria, with no defined standards for determining when sanctions are warranted. Under the guise of "peace, security, or stability of the West Bank," it appears the State Department can punish arbitrarily any Israeli it wants. Yet, the State Department hasn't acted against the Palestinian Authority, which makes "pay to slay" payments to terrorists for murdering innocent Israeli families. Nor has the State Department taken significant action to counter the surge in Palestinian terrorism in the West Bank, which increased by 350 percent in 2023, including 300 shooting attacks.

Your February 8 memorandum similarly—and falsely—implies that Israel is committing mass war crimes in its campaign against Hamas and threatens to cut off aid unless Israel meets arbitrary deadlines for providing "assurances" regarding international humanitarian law. Yet, we already have rules requiring aid recipients to comply with applicable law and in line with American interests. Moreover, Israel has provided ample evidence of the steps it takes to avoid civilian casualties, which Coordinator for Strategic Communications at the National Security Council, John Kirby, acknowledged publicly.

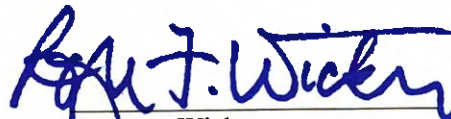
You should immediately rescind both your February 1 order and February 8 memorandum. Further, please provide Congress no later than March 15 with a full explanation of what evidentiary basis and processes are intended to be employed when choosing to sanction Israelis while ignoring the serious crimes committed by the Palestinian Authority.

We appreciate your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Tom Cotton
United States Senator



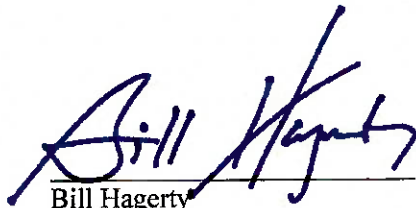
Roger F. Wicker
United States Senator



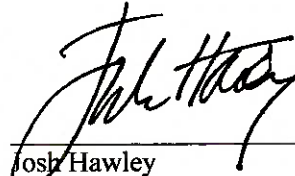
Ted Budd
United States Senator



Ted Cruz
United States Senator



Bill Hagerty
United States Senator



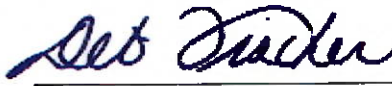
Josh Hawley
United States Senator



Rick Scott
United States Senator



Katie Boyd Britt
United States Senator



Deb Fischer
United States Senator