

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 18, 2023

The Honorable Antony Blinken  
United States Secretary of State  
The State Department  
2201 C Street Northwest  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Blinken,

As a result of the ongoing conflict in Israel and Gaza prompted by Hamas' horrific terror attacks, more than 1.2 million people are in urgent need of lifesaving humanitarian assistance. More than one million people have fled the violence, stretching the already strained ability of the United Nations and humanitarian partners on the ground to provide the food, medical treatment, and shelter they need to survive. In this context, the UN has released an emergency appeal for \$294 million to address these humanitarian needs, help protect displaced people and save countless lives. We urge you to uphold our country's proud tradition of leading the international community in providing lifesaving relief by contributing funding for international humanitarian assistance toward this UN appeal.

We support Israel's right to defend its people against the brutal attacks carried out by Hamas. Hamas knew that the Israeli government would have to respond to the unconscionable murder and hostage-taking of its citizens and thus bears the blame for initiating this conflict. We also know there are many innocent Palestinians in Gaza who do not support Hamas and urgently need help as they seek to flee the fighting. More than one million people in Gaza have fled their homes in search of safety, with nearly half of those taking shelter in UN facilities. The United Nations estimates that Gaza will run out of food and water within days. Healthcare facilities are overwhelmed, running desperately short on supplies and impacted by the lack of electricity. The humanitarian needs on the ground have dramatically increased over the past week, and conditions will likely continue to deteriorate in the days and weeks ahead.

Displaced people around the world depend on lifesaving humanitarian assistance from the UN and its partners to feed their families, receive medical treatment, and secure shelter. The United States should continue its steadfast support for Israel while also doing our part to help the UN assist innocent civilians as they flee the violence. We therefore urge you to join the international community in answering the call from the United Nations by contributing toward this lifesaving \$294 million appeal, and ask that you work with the UN and its partners to ensure that the assistance reaches the intended recipients without diversion or delay.

Sincerely,



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Christopher S. Murphy  
United States Senator



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Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator



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Tim Kaine  
United States Senator



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Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator



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Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator



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Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator



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Raphael Warnock  
United States Senator



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Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator



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Alex Padilla  
United States Senator



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Peter Welch  
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator



Thomas R. Carper  
United States Senator



Martin Heinrich  
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator



Tina Smith  
United States Senator




Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator



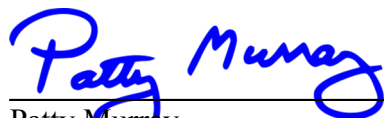
Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
United States Senator

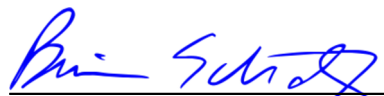


Patty Murray  
United States Senator



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Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator



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Brian Schatz  
United States Senator



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Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator



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Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator



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Jon Ossoff  
United States Senator



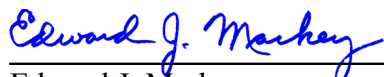
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Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senator



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Mark R. Warner  
United States Senator



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Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



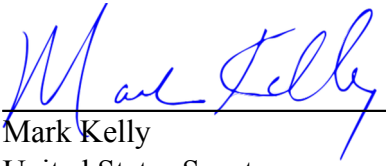
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Jacky Rosen  
United States Senator




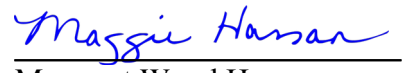
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Gary C. Peters  
United States Senator

  
Mark Kelly  
United States Senator

  
John Hickenlooper  
United States Senator

  
Jack Reed  
United States Senator

  
Margaret Wood Hassan  
United States Senator