

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 15, 2023

The Honorable Linda Thomas-Greenfield
United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations
United States Mission to the United Nations
799 United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017

Ambassador Thomas-Greenfield:

We write to urge you to condemn the remarks made by United Nations (UN) Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on October 24, 2023, where Guterres referenced that the terrorist attacks on more than 1,400 innocent people by Hamas “did not happen in a vacuum.”¹ As the U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations, we strongly urge you to denounce these comments and make clear that the United States does not condone justifications of actions on behalf of terrorist organizations.

The remarks made by Guterres is a notable shift away from previous statements in 2017 where he promised to act against a rising global tide of anti-Semitism when he referred to “the denial of the right of the State of Israel to exist.”² The Palestinian people have been governed by Hamas terrorists, with support from malign state actors, for over a decade. It is unconscionable to blame Israel for Hamas’ brutal reign over the people in Gaza. It is imperative to address these remarks as they undermine the principles of peace, diplomacy, and fairness.

The United States must stand firm with its closest ally and friend, Israel. Further, the Administration has made clear that Israel has a right to defend itself against any threats to its sovereignty, just as any other nation does.³ The promotion of understanding and dialogue should be our shared goal, and any remarks or beliefs that fail to align with these principles are detrimental to the pursuit of lasting peace in the Middle East and protecting our democratic values worldwide.

Again, we urge you to promote American interests by standing firm with our friend and ally, Israel, and make clear that the United States does not tolerate the denial of Israel’s right to defend itself. The anti-Israel rhetoric from the United Nations, an organization intended to be a leading organization intended to maintain international peace and security, achieve international cooperation, and importantly, protect human rights, is alarming and damaging to the mission of securing peace and stability for the State of Israel and its immediate surroundings.

Sincerely,



Nathaniel Moran
Member of Congress

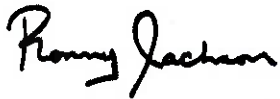


Cory Mills
Member of Congress

¹ United Nations, “Secretary-General’s remarks to the Security Council - on the Middle East [as delivered],” October 24, 2023.

² Bard, Mitchell. *The UN Relationship with Israel*, 2023. <https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/the-u-n-israel-relationship>.

³ Biden, Joseph. “Remarks by President Biden and Prime Minister Anthony Albanese of Australia in Joint Press Conference.” *The White House*, The United States Government, 25 October 2023, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/speeches-remarks/2023/10/25/remarks-by-president-biden-and-prime-minister-anthony-albanese-of-australia-in-joint-press-conference/>. Transcript.



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