October 19, 2023

President Joseph Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden,

Welcome back from your historic mission of friendship to the State of Israel.

Since the unspeakable horrors inflicted by Hamas on October 7th, your actions and your words have provided profound support and comfort to the citizens of Israel and to the Jewish People everywhere. You have materially strengthened Israel by deploying American aircraft carriers and other forces to the region and by the other forms of military and economic support being sent. Your historic visit to Israel during this time of war, the first of its kind by an American president, provided critical moral support and speaks volumes about where and with whom you stand. As Jews and as people of faith, we are profoundly grateful for your loud and clear voice of moral clarity in a horribly confused and prejudiced world.

Israel needs to act against Hamas, neither to punish or take revenge nor to establish deterrence. They must destroy Hamas. The world has witnessed that in the case of Hamas a ceasefire is simply a pause to reload. Their destructive impulse cannot be deterred as they have little compassion for the Palestinian people they claim to represent, and their spite and hatred of Israel makes martyrdom a virtue.

The Israel Defense Forces choose life, value every human life, and function with an ethic of “purity of arms” that has moved them to become world leaders in developing technologies and techniques designed to minimize innocent civilian casualties in warfare. They regularly put their own soldiers at risk as they go above and beyond the letter of the laws of war. Today, and for the coming weeks they need your vocal support to not cease firing until they complete the job of destroying Hamas.

Your voice of moral clarity needs to be heard by the world leaders, United Nations countries, American politicians, university leaders, academics, students, and members of the media who have either not found it within themselves to clearly and unequivocally condemn Hamas’ barbarism or have quickly reverted to focusing on restraining the Jewish state’s ability to defend itself fully and effectively. Your voice of moral clarity must be joined by all who claim to value life and law in demanding the immediate release of the 199 hostages held by Hamas in Gaza.
We will be eternally grateful for the leadership you have shown in word and deed since that terrible day of October 7, and we will continue to need your leadership and your voice of moral clarity in the days and months ahead. Please help Israel complete this critical task.

We thank God every day for the gift He has granted the Jewish people in our time, the return of our people to our ancestral biblical homeland. And we thank God every day for the United States of America, a beacon of light, love, and clarity in an otherwise darkened world.

God bless you and God bless the United States of America.

Mitchel Aeder
President

Rabbi Moshe Hauer
Executive Vice President

Rabbi Dr. Josh Joseph
Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer

Nathan Diament
Executive Director, OU Advocacy