

ISRAEL HAS THE RIGHT TO
DEFEND ITSELF

(Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Mr. Speaker, for 10 days, moms, dads, and grandparents have been lying awake at night, waiting for the inevitable warning call of sirens to pick up their children and run to the nearest bomb shelter.

No one should live with this type of fear. No one should live with the fear that missiles could rain down and destroy their homes and lives at any moment. Yet, this is the reality that many Israeli families are living right now.

For 10 days, Israel has been defending itself from attacks launched by Iranian-backed terrorists. Let's be clear: Israel has the right to defend herself and its homeland from terrorist attacks.

Israel is one of the United States' greatest allies in the Middle East, and we cannot waver in our support of Israel during this challenging time.

Today, I am standing with the people of Israel, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

My hope is that peace and calm can quickly be restored in the region. Until that happens, we must continue standing in solidarity with the Nation of Israel and its people.

ATTACK ON JEWISH PEOPLE IN
LOS ANGELES

(Mr. SHERMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, over the last 5 years, we have seen a 40 percent increase in anti-Semitic hate crimes. Most are lone wolf property crimes, late at night.

But last night in Los Angeles, we saw something new: organized violence. A small caravan of SUVs, waving Palestinian flags, drove to a significantly Jewish neighborhood. Dozens of men, wearing all black, with faces covered, disembarked at a restaurant, chanting "death to the Jews." They demanded that diners either answer the question: "Are you Jewish?" And if they answered "yes" or they objected to the question, they were beaten, some sent to the hospital.

Nearby, an Orthodox Jew, dressed distinctively, was chased down by a caravan waving Palestinian flags. He ran for his life, and thank God, he found safety.

The Los Angeles Police Department will investigate these hate crimes. I also ask that those who criticize the Israeli Government to avoid rhetoric which will infuse these anti-Semites with the view that they are somehow part of the American mainstream.

ONGOING TERRORIST ATTACKS
AGAINST THE STATE OF ISRAEL

(Mr. JACKSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. JACKSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express support for one of our most loyal allies, Israel.

Unlike many of my colleagues across the aisle, I will not waver in my support for democracy, and I will not turn a blind eye to the ongoing terrorist attacks against the State of Israel.

The simple fact is, Israel uses weapons to protect its citizens from terrorism, and Hamas uses its weapons with the goal of murdering civilians and annihilating the State of Israel as a whole.

There is no moral equivalence between the two, and any attempt to make Israel out as the aggressor is not rooted in fact. Israel has the right to defend itself as a sovereign country.

In 2014, Congress unanimously passed a Democrat-led resolution condemning Hamas attacks on Israel after they had launched approximately 300 rockets.

This time, Hamas has launched over 4,000 rockets into Israel in just 10 days, yet, it is not clear to me that Democrats in this House would support a similar resolution today.

That is a sad and problematic shift. Congress must continue its support for U.S. aid to Israel, and Congress must confront terrorists and their backers, like Iran.

CRISIS AT THE SOUTHERN
BORDER

(Mr. CAWTHORN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CAWTHORN. Mr. Speaker, according to recent data from my district, the number one concern of my constituents is the Biden border crisis. Let me repeat that: The number one concern of my constituents in North Carolina is the crisis at our southern border, over 1,600-miles away.

It is beyond clear that the response by the Biden administration has not simply been weak; it has also been counterproductive. Americans nationwide are sensing what the international community has known for the past 6 months: Our leaders are not strong, our border is open, and America is ripe for the taking.

Fifteen hundred illegal immigrants cross into our country daily without ever being tracked, according to border data. Two Yemeni men on a terror watchlist were just apprehended at the border, and this administration has turned a blind eye to one of our biggest national security crises in recent history.

Mr. Speaker, I am disappointed, because it seems that the political maneuvering of one select class has co-opted the good of the people. What can we, as individual Americans, do in the face of such abject disregard for our well-being? We can speak out.

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PROMISING ECONOMIC RECOVERY

(Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight Oklahoma's efforts to bolster its economy and get its citizens back to work.

There is no doubt the pandemic caused not only illness, but major interruption in our daily lives. Millions became jobless through no fault of their own and had to rely on additional Federal unemployment assistance to survive.

But today the situation has changed, Mr. Speaker. We have a rebounding economy and over 158 million Americans have received at least one vaccine dose. With more than 8 million job openings nationwide, the time has come to encourage Americans to get back to work.

The continued expansion of Federal assistance is hampering this promising economic recovery across the country and in my home State of Oklahoma.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to say Oklahoma is leading the country's economic recovery by providing \$1,200 signing bonuses beginning in June, for individuals who go back to work and stay employed for six continuous weeks. There are over 68,000 job postings in Oklahoma currently, with 7,500 in Oklahoma City alone. These are good-paying jobs across a variety of industries, including the energy and manufacturing sectors. Hundreds of employers are offering competitive wages and generous benefits.

ANTI-SEMITISM ON THE RISE

(Mr. GOHMERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, this is a very sad time in America. As was discussed earlier today in debate, we used to have bipartisan agreements on things. One of those was when anti-Semitism was raising its ugly head. One party here on the floor still speaks up against, will vote against anti-Semitic statements and call them out for what they are, and another will not.

I heard my friend across the aisle, BRAD SHERMAN, just appropriately decrying the violence, these anti-Jewish folks in California, this incident. Well, that surely could be something we could once again, come back together in a bipartisan way and condemn the 40 percent rise in violence against Semitic people. It is time to come together on that. It will show the world.

STAND UP AGAINST HATE

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, in this short period of time, I offer several

thoughts. First of all, we are stronger as a country when we stand up against hate at all times.

Today, in the Judiciary Committee, we saw the results of hate now 100 years in the making, and that is the Tulsa race riots. The Tulsa race riots showed that attackers looted and intentionally burned an estimated 1,256 homes in Greenwood, America's Black Wall Street, along with nearly all of the district's churches, schools, and businesses.

The testimony of yesteryear saw hundreds of men march through the main business section of White town with their hats off and their hands up. The brutality was unmentionable. Men, women, and children, driven like cattle, huddled like horses, treated like beasts.

Today, we heard from Viola Fletcher, 107 years old; Hughes van Ellis, 100 years old; and Lessie Benningfield Randle, 106 years old. We ask for justice for them.

In addition, I want to take note that this is Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, and to be able to say that we stand against the horrific shootings in Atlanta, Georgia, on March 16, 2021. We have to stand against hate. I am glad that we passed the bipartisan commission on January 6 to show that America is unified.

Finally, some good news to my constituents: We will be launching the child tax credit effort. We want you to get that child tax credit.

THREE MAJOR CRISES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JOHNSON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Louisiana?

There was no objection.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, during my time tonight, my colleagues and I will address three major crises happening here at home, happening close to home at our southern border; and happening to our closest ally in the Middle East, and that is Israel.

Each of these issues that my colleagues will discuss tonight can and should be addressed in a bipartisan way. We should all want Americans to get back to work. We should all want to end the humanitarian crisis at our border, and we should all want to support one of our closest allies from terrorism.

It is time for President Biden and our Democrat colleagues to work with Re-

publicans to solve these problems for the American people and for our allies.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Tennessee's Sixth District (Mr. ROSE).

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my steadfast support for the nation of Israel, our closest and greatest ally in the Middle East.

Hamas, a designated terrorist organization, has been targeting civilians by firing thousands of rockets on Israeli cities. These attacks are both tragic and unacceptable, and Israel undeniably has the right to continue to defend itself.

As Hamas continues these attacks, the United States must show its unwavering support for Israel, condemn this aggression by Hamas, and sanction those who fund terrorism, such as Iran. That is why I am a cosponsor of the Palestinian International Terrorism Support Prevention Act introduced by Representative BRIAN MAST. America does not tolerate those who fund terrorists, and this legislation would put in place sanctions on governments and individuals that do.

The nation of Israel is the only democracy in the Middle East, and the relationship we share is indispensable. With the world watching, we must send a clear message to Hamas, Islamic jihadists, and those that fund them that the United States stands with Israel.

I unequivocally support our friend, Israel, and recognize its right to self-defense in the face of these horrific assaults by Hamas. I pray for peace in Jerusalem and for the safety of all Israelis.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for those remarks on Israel. We do stand strong with them.

Mr. Speaker, I yield next to the gentleman from Arkansas' Second District (Mr. HILL).

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I commend my friend from Louisiana for bringing our Members to the floor tonight to talk about something that is so essential to American life, our careers, our work, our independence, our ability to pursue happiness.

This pandemic has thrown many off track for that, and it is House Republicans that want to make sure we pursue policies that get people back to work, back to opportunity, back to independence.

Our small businesses in my home State of Arkansas and local economies across our country are recovering from the devastation of the pandemic. They now face a threat that has resulted from President Biden and House Democrats' inflated and fiscally irresponsible approach to unemployment benefits.

The Wall Street Journal reports there are over 8 million job openings, Mr. Speaker, in the United States right now. That is almost more jobs open than every person currently out of work.

Instead of encouraging these positions to be filled, my friends on the other side of the aisle have disincentivized going back to work and have made these benefits so appealing that it has disrupted labor markets across the country, particularly in Arkansas, particularly lower-income labor markets.

Medical workers, small businesses, and restaurants all tell me that this is creating problems for them. It has hurt States so much that a handful of individual States are now rejecting participating in Federal unemployment benefits.

This is not the direction we need to go, and it does not take an economist to understand this is not a permanent solution. We cannot keep tying policies back to a once-in-a-century pandemic that will systematically change our country forever.

The solution is simple, and it is what House Republicans are advocating and have been advocating for months. We need policies that encourage Americans to get back to work, not policies that encourage reliance on the Federal Government.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield next to the gentleman from Illinois' 15th District (Mrs. MILLER).

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman JOHNSON for hosting this Special Order on so many important issues that our country is facing.

I stand for peace, and a lasting one. Side by side, the American and Israeli people have stood for freedom and democracy in the face of authoritarian aggression. Side by side, the American and Israeli people have stood for justice with restraint in the face of reckless violence. Side by side, the American and Israeli people have stood for peace through self-defense in the face of terrorism.

President Trump was working with various Islamic nation-states in the Middle East to adopt the Abraham Accords in order to foster better diplomatic relations with the nation of Israel. Unfortunately, Joe Biden has brought this peace process to a screeching halt.

We know Hamas is a terrorist organization, and they are funded by Iran. The Biden administration continues to negotiate with Iran to get them back in the Iran deal. Iran is a funder of terrorists, and the Iran deal would make it easier for them to commit and fund terror. Iran has provided money to Hamas and other Palestinian terrorist organizations. These groups' intention is to destroy Israel and the Jewish state.

The ongoing rocket attacks against Israeli civilians show why America must act immediately to support Israel, condemn Hamas, and sanction those who fund terrorism.

My family and I will continue to pray for the peace and safety and for the people of Israel as they combat terrorism.