

We find ourselves facing a war on two fronts: one against the atrocities of Hamas, and another in the global arena of public opinion. Regrettably, we have noticed an alarming trend in which Israel, despite its right to self-defense, is mischaracterized as an oppressor. This is a false equivalence between the actions of a murderous terrorist organization and a sovereign state's right to defend its citizens, which unfortunately results in the loss of innocent Palestinian lives. Any attempt to justify or equivocate Hamas's brutal and grotesque actions is intellectually and morally indefensible.

It's unsettling to note that many college campuses have become breeding grounds for anti-Israel and anti-Semitic sentiments, largely fueled by a naive and biased understanding of the conflict. It is ironic that the very halls of enlightenment in America and Europe, ostensibly the bastions of intellectual and progressive thought that are your campuses, have adopted Hamas as the cause célèbre while Israel is demonized. Universities, as hubs of enlightenment and rational discourse, must take responsibility for the views they perpetuate.

There is no moral equivalency here. Let's be clear: Hamas shares no values with any Western academic institution. Hamas is an organization that has repeatedly pledged to annihilate Israel and its people.

Its ideology is antithetical to the values of human life and the liberal values we hold dear. Hamas funnels international aid into armament rather than to the welfare of its citizens. While Israel uses its weapons to shield its citizens, Hamas uses its citizens as shields for its weapons—which it hides in hospitals, schools, and mosques. It is crucial to distinguish between Hamas' terrorist objectives and the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian people for statehood. The conflation of the two only serves to fuel hatred and ignorance.

Academic institutions stand as lighthouses in the intellectual landscape, and we ask you to illuminate them. Your roles as leaders of these institutions confer upon you an extraordinary responsibility: to guide the moral and ethical development of your students, to imbue them with the ability to think critically and to discern the nuances that separate right from wrong. Freedom of speech is a cornerstone of academic freedom, but it should not be manipulated to legitimize hate speech or to justify violence.

We urge you to delineate the boundaries between constructive discourse and destructive propaganda, and promote evidence-based, nuanced thinking that challenges simplistic narratives. Expose the falsity of justifications for acts of terror; expose and condemn disingenuous statements; and reject hypocritical voices that justify murder, rape, and destruction in the name of "resistance".

Moreover, we expect that Israeli and Jewish students and faculty on university and college campuses will be accorded the same respect and protections as any other minority. The principles of inclusivity and campus safety must unequivocally extend to include Israeli and Jewish members of your academic communities. Just as it would be unthinkable for an academic institution to extend free speech protections to groups targeting other protected classes, so too should demonstrations that call for our destruction and glorify violence against Jews be explicitly prohibited and condemned.

What the world witnessed on October 7 were not methods to help disadvantaged people build better futures for themselves. The events of this terrible day should be taken as a wake-up call to all of the dangers of nihilistic organizations like Hamas and ISIS that represent the very opposite of freedom and liberty.

As leaders of Israeli universities, we have been heartened by clear statements of solidarity and support for Israel, which are, at their heart, statements in solidarity with humanity, enlightenment, and progress. At the same time, we are calling for a sea change in clarity and truth in academia on the matter of Israel's war against Hamas, so that light will triumph over dark, now and always.

Signed,

Prof. Arie Zaban, President of Bar-Ilan University, Chairperson of Association of University Heads—VERA;

Prof. Daniel A. Chamovitz, President of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev;

Prof. Alon Chen, President of Weizmann Institute of Science;

Prof. Asher Cohen, President of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem;

Prof. Leo Corry, President of the Open University of Israel;

Prof. Ehud Grossman, President of Ariel University;

Prof. Ariel Porat, President of Tel-Aviv University;

Prof. Ron Robin, President of University of Haifa;

Prof. Uri Sivan, President of the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 24 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WILLIAMS of New York) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made Heaven and Earth. We pause today to reflect on the enormity of that eternal truth.

In You, O Lord, the one who set the stars in the heavens, crafted breathtaking landscapes of mountains and valleys, who even now causes the oceans to rise and fall, and who sends rain to water the earth, in You do we live, and move, and have our being.

May this reality so strike us that we recommit ourselves this day to the pursuit of peace in every corner of Your magnificent creation. Help us to defend the innocents caught in the crossfire of Israel and Hamas and the blameless who are suffering in the war between Ukraine and Russia.

May we open our hearts and minds, changing the way we, in our own arrogance or ignorance, are working against the peaceable kingdom You have designed. Help us to set aside our inclination to use words to wound, insults to injure, and cruel digs to devastate. You have given us so many different relationships, and You have

called us to treat each one with dignity and respect, with tenderness and mercy.

We call on Your name today that we would receive the magnitude of the help You alone provide and which we so desperately need in the living of these days.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. HOULAHAN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. HOULAHAN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Ms. Deirdre Kelly, one of his secretaries.

PROVIDING TAX RELIEF FOR FIRE VICTIMS

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow, the House Committee on Ways and Means is marking up a comprehensive tax relief bill for disaster survivors. My bipartisan bill, H.R. 4970, the Protect Innocent Victims Of Taxation After Fire Act, is included as a provision.

H.R. 4970 will exempt all wildfire relief payments from Federal income taxes and is especially time-sensitive given the recent extension from the October 16 tax filing deadline in California until November 16.

It is essential that Congress get this done and every Fire Victim Trust beneficiary has this massive tax headache alleviated. Fire victims need this tax relief to help rebuild their lives, and they should not go through this tax season with this uncertainty about what they are going to have to pay this year.

The initiative has been a long time coming. Indeed, the fifth year anniversary of the Camp fire in Paradise, California, and surrounding communities is coming up in 1 week.

In the previous term, we had a similar bill included in the government funding package at the end of the year,

but it was removed by the Senate because of a disagreement on tax policy.

The bipartisan bill is a top priority. I commend and thank my colleague MIKE THOMPSON, from the wine country, in helping, and our Ways and Means chairman, JASON SMITH, in seeing it through in committee in order to bring this relief to disaster survivors and fire victims.

UKRAINE AND ISRAEL INHERENTLY INTERTWINED

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

Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Speaker, we cannot rely on words alone to repel Russian aggression in Ukraine nor to extinguish terrorism in the Middle East. Rather, we must also provide material support to our democratic partners, as well. We must not cleave Israel and Israeli funding and Ukraine and Ukrainian funding into two separate spending votes because their fight for freedom is actually one and the same.

The stories of Ukraine and Israel are inherently intertwined, and I am the daughter of their woven histories and struggles. With forged papers, my Jewish father evaded the Nazi threat in Lviv. The vast majority of his family was murdered in the Holocaust, but the few who survived emigrated to the United States, Australia, and Israel.

It is an absolute dereliction of our duty to democracy to condition and politicize our support for Israel or Ukraine. To do so would signal to our adversaries abroad that we don't have the willpower, that we don't have the courage, to stand up to authoritarianism or extremism wherever it rears its ugly head.

We cannot send that message. We cannot appease evil. We cannot afford to backslide in defense of democracy.

WHAT MONEY LAUNDERING LOOKS LIKE

(Ms. GREENE of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. GREENE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am here to inform the House of Representatives that the Committee on Oversight and Accountability has indeed brought forward the receipts in our impeachment inquiry of Joe Biden.

Through our investigation, we have uncovered a check to Joe Biden for \$200,000. This comes from foreign funds from a country in the Middle East through a struggling company. You can see the check is directly made to Joe Biden. This is what money laundering looks like.

We have also uncovered and released today another check to Joseph R. Biden for \$40,000. This \$40,000 is a check written to him by his brother and sister-in-law, James and Sara Biden, and this check comes from funds directly through money laundering through the CCP.

No President of the United States, no Vice President, or no officeholder should ever engage in money laundering, receiving money, selling out their office, selling out their power, and getting paid from foreign countries. We must continue our impeachment inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

DEFENDING THE HUDSON RIVER

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

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in defense of the Hudson River in New York State.

For too long, too many that have enough wealth and enough power have gotten away with dumping toxic materials into our river, putting their profits ahead of the health and safety of our families.

Now those same forces are at it again, attempting an end around maneuver that would turn our precious Hudson River into a parking lot for dangerous barges carrying oil, asphalt, and other toxic materials.

To be very clear, this presents a clear and present danger to our community, and we must and we will stop it.

Mr. Speaker, that is why I demanded that the Coast Guard uphold the anchoring ban on the Hudson River and why I am calling on every single Hudson Valley resident to join me in this fight to protect our river.

This is where my kids and your kids and grandkids play. It is where we get our drinking water for over 100,000 of our residents. It is the lifeblood of our community, not a parking lot for big corporations looking to make even more money.

We owe it to our kids, our seniors, and our future generations to fight for our river with everything that we have.

ISRAEL NEEDS OUR UNCONDITIONAL SUPPORT

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

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, on October 7, Hamas invaded Israel in a horrific, barbaric terrorist attack, killing more than 1,400 people, injuring thousands more, and taking 240 citizens hostage, including American citizens.

Today, Israel finds itself in a war with Hamas. Hundreds of thousands of Israelis have been evacuated. A million Palestinian citizens have had to evacuate from the fighting as Hamas holds human shields, still holds its captives, and continues to fire more than 8,000 rockets into Israel.

Israel needs our support. On Friday, this body will consider legislation pro-

viding that emergency supplemental support. On Friday, for the first time, Republicans in this body will condition that aid and try to add legislation to rescind IRS agents that will cost the United States Treasury \$12.5 billion.

This is dangerous, reckless, and irresponsible. It is irresponsible because it costs the Treasury money, reckless because it is conditioning aid for the first time, and dangerous because it puts Israel in a precarious position.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues not to allow this bill to come to the floor and instead to put a clean supplemental bill on the floor.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

DECLARING IT IS THE POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES THAT A NUCLEAR ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN IS NOT ACCEPTABLE

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 559) declaring it is the policy of the United States that a nuclear Islamic Republic of Iran is not acceptable.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 559

Whereas an Islamic Republic of Iran that possesses a nuclear weapon would be an unacceptable threat to regional and global security;

Whereas Iran continues to enrich and stockpile uranium far in excess of the limits set under United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231 (2015);

Whereas the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) confirmed in May 2023 that Iran continues to enrich uranium to 60-percent purity;

Whereas the United States Ambassador to the Vienna Office of the United Nations and to the IAEA, Laura Holgate, affirmed "Iran's production of uranium enriched to 60 percent has no credible peaceful purpose.";

Whereas IAEA investigators found uranium particles enriched to 83.7 percent at Iran's Fordow nuclear facility in January 2023;

Whereas uranium enriched to 90 percent is weapons-grade material;

Whereas at a press conference in January 2023, IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi stated regarding Iran: "One thing is true: They have amassed enough nuclear material for several nuclear weapons.";

Whereas, in March 2023, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Mark Milley, testified that "Iran could produce fissile material for a nuclear weapon in less than two weeks and would only take several more months to produce an actual nuclear weapon.";