

## ISRAEL

Mr. President, now, on a different matter, I was encouraged to hear that President Biden will visit Israel tomorrow. As the Jewish State mourns the victims of the barbaric October 7 attacks and as Israel forces continue their work to root out the terrorists responsible, it is important for the President to represent Israel's closest ally and bear witness to the destruction wrought by Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, and their patrons in Tehran. The President will have a number of responsibilities on this consequential trip.

First, he needs to console a grieving nation while demonstrating America's firm resolve to back Israel in its time of need.

The American people feel the pain of our friends in Israel, and we mourn our citizens—our own citizens—who were slaughtered alongside Israelis by these savages. In our grief and in our anger, America's interests and Israel's interests are truly intertwined, and our policies must be as well.

President Biden needs to demonstrate our support for the difficult but necessary steps Israel must take to destroy the terrorists' capacity to wage war. He needs to reject the false moral equivalence that Israeli's perennial critics are using to mask anti-Semitic hatred. He needs to resist the already mounting pressure in the media and in diplomatic channels to constrain Israel's efforts to defend itself.

He needs to make it clear that his administration will do everything possible to give Israel the time and the space that it needs to conduct the required military operations, for as long as it takes. As long as it takes.

In his words and actions, President Biden must also deter Iran and Hezbollah from further additional involvement in this terrorist war. The deployment of carrier battle groups, a marine expeditionary unit, and additional fighter squadrons to the region are a good first step. But deterrence requires both capabilities and credibility.

The President needs to show that he means business. His tone, his statements, and his actions need to send an unambiguous message to Iran about America's resolve. No more splitting hairs about whether intelligence demonstrates Iran's direct involvement in the October 7 attacks. The Supreme Leader has rejoiced at the images of dead Israelis.

A senior Iranian official called it "a proud operation," and Hamas has a history of thanking Iran for its support in public. No more absurd suggestions that seeking to free up \$6 billion in Iranian assets doesn't embolden Tehran.

We have reams—reams—of evidence that the regime that chants "Death to America" and "Death to Israel" puts its money where its mouth is. Ultimately, President Biden must also accept that the fundamental assumptions of his administration's Iran policy were morally and practically bankrupt.

The President's team begged Iran to reenter the Obama administration's flawed nuclear deal. Iran sensed their desperation and played hard to get.

Then the administration sought to deescalate tensions by overlooking Iranian plots against American citizens and former officials and ignoring Tehran's growing repression at home and aggression abroad.

Well, Iran had other ideas. They like killing Americans as much as they like killing Israelis. After all, the way that Tehran sees it, America is the Great Satan to Israel's "Little Satan." And we should expect that, until Iran's rulers are afraid of us, they will continue to undermine America's influence, to test our boundaries, and to kill our citizens.

The administration's previous Iran policy is now history. The President must go back to the drawing board and should start by doing what I have recommended to him since he took office: Work with Republicans to craft a bipartisan Iran policy that will survive his administration, a plan that addresses all aspects of the threat Iran poses, and, more immediately, the President needs to show Iran and its terrorist proxies like Hezbollah that further involvement in this conflict will risk crippling economic sanctions and the decisive use of American military strength.

The terrorists and their sponsors with Israeli and American blood on their hands represent a clear and present danger to the United States, to our allies, and our interests. It is long past time for America to meet this threat with serious and credible deterrence.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, there are days and events that are almost unspeakable, and October 7, 2023, is one of them. The slaughter of hundreds of innocent Israelis—men, women, and, unthinkable, children—at the hands of Hamas terrorists was a terrible witness to the evil of which mankind is capable. The stories and images that have emerged are searing: a bloodied infant seat, parents tucking their 10-month-old twins into hiding before being murdered by the attackers, a mom and dad killed with their three young children.

As a father and a grandfather, I cannot imagine the terror those parents must have felt as they realized Hamas gunmen had moved into their villages. It is a terrible fact of war that the innocent are often drawn into the crossfire, but to make war on the innocent, to target the innocent deliberately, is perhaps the greatest evil of which man is capable.

Mr. President, it is nearly unimaginable to think that someone could look at Hamas's attack and find any cause for joy or celebration, and yet in the days following the attacks, we have seen far too many people right here at home—including at our so-called top universities—attempt to defend or even celebrate the indefensible. And while the First Amendment protects their right to speak, I hope that we as a society can categorically reject the view that anything can justify or excuse the deliberate murder of babies and children.

Mr. President, Israel is currently working to bring a swift end to Hamas's reign of terror, and it should have the full support of the United States in this mission. The United States has long provided security assistance to Israel, including an ongoing memorandum of understanding that supports foreign military financing and missile defense assistance through fiscal year 2028.

In 2021, we passed supplemental funding to restock the Iron Dome system in response to rocket attacks from Hamas, and I anticipate Congress will soon consider a supplemental in response to this attack. We must also use every resource available to prevent escalation and expansion of this war and ensure that Israel does not end up fighting on multiple fronts.

We can already see that other hostile actors are angling to enter the fray. Iran is actively threatening Israel. Hezbollah, which is backed by Iran, has fired rockets and artillery across Israel's northern border with Lebanon. And we need to band together with our allies to make it clear that any attempts to escalate this war would be a grave miscalculation.

It is also past time to hold Iran—a long-time funder of Hamas, Hezbollah, and other terrorist organizations—to account for its role in fomenting unrest and destabilizing the Middle East. I have not been shy about calling out the Biden administration's poor track record on being tough on Iran, in particular, the administration's misguided goal of re-signing a flawed nuclear deal and attempting to appease the country's leaders with billions of dollars in sanctions relief.

Just over a month ago—on September 11 of all days—the administration lifted a freeze on \$6 billion in Iranian assets, which would likely have resulted in the freeing up of additional funds for Iran's hostile activities. I am glad that the President listened to calls from Senator BLACKBURN, me, and others to block Iran's access to these funds, and I hope that the Senate can soon pass legislation to permanently freeze these assets. We need to make it very clear to Iran—and to any other country that would seek to imitate the Iranians—that there will be consequences for aiding and abetting terror.

Mr. President, 30 Americans have now been confirmed to have died in

Israel. As I speak, we have 13 possible American hostages being held by Hamas. We also have an estimated up to 600 Americans in Gaza in harm's way, including a family that my office is working with. We must get them out.

Mr. President, in the midst of war and Hamas's brutality, it is important to remember our own sense of humanity and innocence on both sides. Hamas's utter indifference to human life was on full display on its rampage through Israeli villages, and that indifference extends, unfortunately, to the lives of its own people. Hamas has tangled its terrorist infrastructure throughout and under an incredibly dense urban population center, ensuring that innocent lives will always be in harm's way in attacks on legitimate terrorist targets.

And as Israel prepares to go after targets in Gaza, Hamas is now discouraging—and, it appears, actively trying to prevent—civilians from heeding Israel's calls to evacuate. Apparently, Hamas believes that dead Palestinians will advance its cause and keep the focus on Israel's response, not the abject brutality that Hamas unleashed on October 7. And we must be resolute in exposing and condemning this callousness.

We must also work to ensure that the response of free countries conveys the respect for human life that is so woefully lacking in the terrorists and that we do everything we can to ensure that innocent civilians on both sides in this conflict are protected as much as possible and that humanitarian aid reaches innocent Palestinians and is not intercepted by Hamas terrorists.

Mr. President, the Jewish people have suffered much, but their story—and the story of Israel—is one of resilience, and the United States stands with Israel at this most challenging time. My prayers this week are with the grieving families in Israel and all the suffering and for the permanent defeat of Hamas and a just and lasting peace.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PADILLA). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, as we all know, the war between Israel and Hamas is intensifying this week.

Just as any sovereign nation would have the right to defend itself against a terrorist attack, Israel has that right as well. It took swift and decisive action to retaliate against the terrorists who invaded its land and murdered its people, but Israel now has the responsibility to eliminate Hamas's leadership and to make sure that Hamas is in-

capable of mounting a similar terrorist attack against Israel in the future.

To that end, the Israel Defense Forces are preparing a ground assault against the Hamas forces in Gaza. Obviously, this is a terrible situation, but we shouldn't be confused about the right and the necessity of Israel to defend itself and to eliminate the Hamas threat. Deterrence is the best way to maintain the peace and to keep bad actors like Iranian proxies, like Hamas, from doing what they did in Israel. But, with that having failed for a variety of reasons, it is now important to give Israel the flexibility they need in order to do what they must.

Hamas's unprovoked attack on Israel has killed nearly 1,400 people, including 30 Americans. That point should not be lost. American citizens have been killed in Israel by this terrorist attack. In addition, nearly 200 people have been taken hostage, and their fate remains in question. And, given the way that Hamas has used Palestinian civilians as human shields, the number of casualties in Gaza continues to rise.

Hamas's war on Israel is not fueled by a quest for liberation or freedom or anything noble but, rather, by hate. This is a clear attempt to eliminate the Jewish State by any means necessary, a goal of the No. 1 terrorist state in the world, which is Iran, and their proxies—Hamas in the south, Hezbollah in the north.

Hamas's war on Israel is pure evil, and the United States cannot and will not be silent. We have the responsibility, moral and otherwise, to support Israel with our words but, more importantly, with our actions. The United States must support Israel without delay or hesitation. We must commit ourselves to defeating this evil by, with, and through our Israeli allies.

I, like many of us, am a student of history because it helps us understand the challenges we are experiencing today and realize that many of those challenges have precedents—things that have happened in the past that should inform us about how we should respond today. As Israel and Hamas continue fighting, it can be easy to mistake this as some isolated or, perhaps, local or regional conflict, but that could not be further from the truth.

I think back to what British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain said in the fall of 1938 about the escalating conflict between Nazi Germany as it prepared to invade Czechoslovakia.

Neville Chamberlain famously said:

[It is] a quarrel in a far away country between people of whom we know nothing.

Well, today, 85 years later, it is easy to see how misguided those views were, because less than 2 years after Chamberlain's remark, Nazi bombs fell on London. This faraway quarrel quickly escalated into a global war that became the deadliest conflict in human history.

I say this only to emphasize that the United States and our allies cannot

brush aside this conflict and treat it as an inconsequential regional dispute. This is, in my view, a war between good and evil, and the world is carefully watching to see how America responds.

There is no question that among the most engaged spectators are Russia and China. Russia's war against Ukraine has been raging for more than a year and a half, and it is watching—Russia is watching—to see if America's support for Ukraine erodes to the point where Russia can gain an upper hand. Mr. Putin is depending on our fatigue or our being distracted from the job at hand, helping Ukraine defend itself.

At the same time, China is preparing its plans to invade Taiwan. President Xi has instructed the People's Liberation Army to be ready to do so by the year 2027, but as we know, there is no guarantee of any particular timetable. President Xi could decide to go at any time. China is hoping that the United States will be distracted by the conflict in the Middle East as it continues to build contingencies related to Taiwan.

Both see the war—both, that is Russia and China see the war—in Israel as a global distraction that could work to their benefit. Now, this is not a reason to avoid U.S. support for Israel. In fact, it is a good reason America's attention and support are so critical at this time. Russia and China and, really, the rest of the world, including our friends and allies, are watching our actions very closely. They want to know whether we are dependable, whether our allies can rely on us to stay in the fight against this evil.

Russia and China are seeing just how far they can push the boundaries of international norms before members of the rules-based international order react. What we are doing for Ukraine, together with our European allies, and what we will do for Israel are subjects of great interest in Russia and China. We cannot bow down in the face of attacks on freedom-loving people whether those attacks happen in Israel, Ukraine, or Taiwan.

Now, I know many of us are not eager to embrace America's leadership role in the world. We think, well, we have got problems here at home—and we certainly do—but America's leadership is indispensable in rallying similarly minded nations to fight evil like this attack against Israel. Without the United States' leadership, it will never happen.

As the fighting in Israel continues, the United States must remain committed to two clear objectives. First and foremost, we must support Israel, and we must provide Israel, along with our other allies, what it needs not only to fight but to win this war. They don't need our direction or our lecturing. They know what they need to do, and we need to help them do it. That includes military aid, intelligence support, and humanitarian assistance, today and in the future, to help Israel

defend its sovereignty and protect its people in a very, very dangerous neighborhood. Israel is the lone beacon of democracy in the Middle East, and we have a national interest in supporting one of our most critical allies as it responds to this terrorist invasion.

Our second goal is to prevent this war from widening. Hamas does not operate in a vacuum. It is a beneficiary of funding, weapons, and training from Iran—the world's leading sponsor of international terrorism.

I have been disturbed as I have read some press reports where Biden administration officials have said: Well, we don't see Iran's fingerprints on this attack. But that is like looking at this situation through a soda straw—ignoring history; ignoring the fact that Iran has been at war with the West, including the United States, for decades, killing American soldiers in Iraq by providing explosively formed penetrators, using proxy groups like Hamas and Hezbollah to commit terrorist attacks. So Iran's fingerprints are definitely on this attack. They may have been surprised about the timing of the attack, but attacking Israel and killing innocent Israelis is the way they do business.

As I have said for years now, Iran has provided Hamas with the money, the weapons, and the military training that it uses against Israel and other allies of the United States. According to the State Department, Iran provides up to \$100 million a year to the Palestinian terrorist groups, including Hamas—\$100 million a year. And people in the Biden administration have said: We don't see Iran's involvement in this attack.

Give me a break. It doesn't matter if Iran called the plays for the attack or knew about the specific timing. Tehran has bankrolled Hamas's arsenal and its capabilities and is cheering on Hamas as it kills innocent Israelis—men, women, and children.

Iran gave Hamas the tools it needed to attack Israel and to further its goal of eliminating the Jewish State. The question now is, Will Iran use this opportunity to escalate? That is why U.S. warships are positioned in the Mediterranean—to provide the deterrence necessary to deter Iran and its proxies, including Hezbollah, from joining the conflict.

Our second goal must be to prevent this conflict from widening outside of Israel. The United States has a long and proud history of supporting Israel, and it is important for Hamas and its allies to understand that America's support for Israel is not just about empty words. We are committed to providing Israel with the resources it needs to defend itself whether that comes in the form of weapons, intelligence support, humanitarian assistance, or anything else.

Israel has received longstanding support from the United States and our allies, and I hope that Iran and Hezbollah recognize the high cost of expanding this conflict.

In an era of near-constant division and disagreement in Congress, I am glad this is an issue that has garnered broad, bipartisan support. Republicans and Democrats are united in purpose, as are the American people. We are committed to aiding Israel's fight against these terrorists and defending democracy in every corner of the globe.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Delaware.

#### NOMINATION OF JENNIFER L. HALL

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I rise today to voice my support for Jennifer Hall's nomination to serve as the next U.S. district court judge for Delaware.

Before I describe what makes Jennifer Hall particularly well suited for the role, let me just take a moment, if I can, to describe our approach to filling court vacancies in the First State.

For over a decade, my colleague—my wingman, if you will—from Delaware, Senator CHRIS COONS, and I have relied on a collaborative process for putting forward U.S. district court recommendations to the White House, regardless of who is in the White House. With the help of a judicial nominating commission, Senator COONS and I have worked to identify some of those qualified individuals in Delaware in order to recommend them to the President, regardless of political party. The process serves Delaware well, it serves our Nation well, and it has yielded yet another extraordinary nominee before us today.

As I often say, justice delayed is justice denied. Justice delayed is justice denied. It is critical that we act swiftly to confirm Jennifer Hall to Delaware's U.S. district court. It is one of the busiest if not, maybe, the busiest district court in the Nation.

I also want to take a moment to thank Judge Rich Andrews for his service to this court and also to our State and to our Nation. I know that when he takes senior status at the end of this year, Jennifer Hall will be well prepared to help take on an enormous workload before the court.

I would like to share just a little bit more, if I could, about her with our colleagues today. Jennifer grew up in Minnesota and is a proud graduate of the University of Minnesota—home of those Golden Gophers—where she earned a bachelor's degree in biochemistry. She then made her way to Yale, where she met her husband Dave and earned not one but two degrees—a master's and a Ph.D. in both molecular physics and biochemistry. But apparently three degrees weren't enough, so she continued her studies at the University of Pennsylvania's Law School,

where she graduated magna cum laude and immediately began a successful legal career.

In the years that followed, she had the distinction of clerking for two Federal judges appointed by President George W. Bush.

Jennifer went on to work at Fish & Richardson, a Wilmington, DE, law firm, where she focused on patent law and other complex business issues.

After 3 years in private practice, she felt called to serve the people of Delaware and of America. She spent the next 8 years at the U.S. Attorney's Office in Delaware. Then, in 2019, Jennifer was selected to serve as a magistrate judge at the U.S. district court for Delaware—the same court to which she has now been nominated to serve as a Federal judge.

The last 4 years have given her some of the best preparation and on-the-job training that anyone could ask for. Magistrate Judge Hall has impressed her colleagues on the bench both with her intellect and her work ethic, and she has a deep respect for and knowledge of the law.

Her background as a scientist, as a legal scholar, and as a magistrate judge has prepared her well for this new role. I strongly urge my colleagues to vote to confirm Magistrate Judge Jennifer Hall to serve as the next U.S. district court judge for Delaware. I am certain she is going to be ready to hit the ground ready on day one, especially in a district court as busy and as important as Delaware's.

Before I yield back my time, I am going to be joined here momentarily, I believe, by Senator COONS, my colleague from Delaware, who serves on the Judiciary Committee and with whom I serve and enjoy the opportunity to serve with him for our State. We have, I think, probably not the kind of close working relationship when it comes to judicial nominations that you find in most other States. We do it as a team. We have great help from the folks on the nominating commission who help make sure we not only identify excellent candidates but actually are able to present them for confirmation to the Senate.

The Presiding Officer, as my friend, I think you know that I am a recovered Governor. I served as Governor of Delaware for 8 years. As Governor in Delaware, the Governor gets to nominate people to serve on the court of chancery, superior court, family court, supreme court, and to submit those names to the legislature for their consideration—to the Senate, rather.

I always looked for three or four qualities, if you will, in the people I nominated as Governor to serve on the bench in Delaware. Even as State courts, we considered some of the major issues of our country, business laws and others. One thing I always looked for in nominees was people who are smart, not just book smart but actually wise. I looked for people who had a strong work ethic. I looked for