

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes prior to the scheduled vote.

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

ISRAEL

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. President, on October 7, Hamas launched the deadliest terror attack in Israel's history. Hamas's vicious and unprovoked slaughter targeted innocent Israeli civilians and killed 1,200 men, women, children—from babies to Holocaust survivors.

Not since the Holocaust has there been a deadlier day for the Jewish people. Yet some extreme individuals and organizations are trying to minimize, distort, and outright deny what happened that day.

We cannot let that happen. That is why Senator RUBIO and I hosted a screening last week for our colleagues to show them exactly what Hamas did on October 7.

The videos, many taken by the terrorists themselves, are disturbing. They are graphic. The images and sounds in those videos, I will never forget. I encourage all Members to see for themselves what Israel is fighting against—pure terror; pure, pure evil.

On October 7, Hamas violated a long-standing cease-fire when they chose—they chose—to start this war. Hamas took deliberate and preemptive actions against innocent civilians, including dismemberment, torture, and mass rape, in what only can be described as barbaric terrorism. As any other nation would, Israel has responded to this unprovoked attack by acting to defend its own population, as they have the absolute right to do.

At the same time, Hamas has stated over and over and over again that they will not stop until there are a thousand more October 7s, until they destroy Israel and all of the people living there, and it is time that the world listens. This is why it is not surprising that at the end of last week, Hamas broke the agreement that was put in place to temporarily pause the fighting, to bring more humanitarian aid into Gaza, and to rescue the hostages brutally taken by Hamas.

Let me be clear. There is no equivalency, no equivalency—zero, none—between the terrorist actions of Hamas and the efforts of Israel to stop them from doing this again or, God forbid, committing a worse attack, as they have repeatedly promised to do. We must all remember this, especially now, as we work to deliver aid to Israel.

It has been nearly 2 months since October 7, and rockets continue to rain down on Israeli cities. More than 130 hostages remain in Gaza. We continue to learn more and more about the violent acts of rape, of torture, of murder committed by Hamas. It is all ongoing. Yet Congress hasn't passed the supplemental security assistance that Israel desperately needs to defend itself.

The security assistance includes support for Israel's lifesaving Iron Dome missile defense system—it protects them from Hamas and Hezbollah, from the rockets that rain down on them night after night after night—as well as other key defense resources and tools. It also replenishes our own defense stocks that have been drawn down to support Israel in this time of need.

To my knowledge, Congress has never used conditions on security assistance in order to strong-arm Israel, and now is not the time to start. Conditions would undermine Israel's ability to defend itself and would send a signal to the world that America's support for our ally is weakening, which is exactly what Iran and its terrorist proxies—it is what they all want. Our aid could make the difference between whether or not there is another October 7.

Now I turn to Members of my own party. Here we are. We all want the same thing. We all want peace in the region for both Palestinians and Israelis, a two-state solution with a secure State of Israel living side by side with a peaceful Palestinian state.

But let me be clear. Hamas—Hamas—is the one currently preventing this goal. Hamas launched the attack on Israel. Hamas targeted, Hamas murdered, Hamas raped and kidnapped innocent people. Hamas is threatening to do this over and over and over again. Hamas is a terrorist organization. They are terrorists. They must be stopped permanently. It is the only way we will get closer to peace and stability in the region.

I also understand and I share your concerns about the need to minimize civilian casualties and the suffering in Gaza. Every innocent civilian death is a tragedy. To truly end the suffering of both Israelis and Palestinians, Hamas must no longer control Gaza.

For nearly two decades, Hamas has stolen resources from the Palestinian people. They have used these resources for terrorist purposes. Instead of building infrastructure to improve Gaza's economy, Hamas built terrorist tunnels. Instead of launching programs to combat poverty, Hamas launches rockets to combat Israel. Instead of shielding their own people and lifting them up, Hamas uses their own people as human shields.

Israel must dismantle Hamas for both Israelis and innocent Palestinians. And while we help Israel, we can and we must continue to work with the Israeli Government to make sure that they are doing everything—everything—in their power to prevent the loss of innocent life.

As we partner with Israel and other nations in the region to deliver humanitarian aid in Gaza—food, water, medicine, emergency shelter, sanitation—we must make sure that this aid actually reaches civilians in Gaza. This aid and these resources will save Palestinian lives if they are allowed to reach them.

So, my colleagues, to all of my colleagues, we all agree on these goals. They are reasonable, and we are utilizing existing channels with Israel to make sure they are taking these steps—all without conditioning aid to Israel.

Let's be clear. Providing Israel with aid is not a blank check. As all of my colleagues in this Chamber know—every one of them knows this—all foreign aid is bound by a set of rules. This has been consistent for decades and has not changed. These are different from conditions specifically targeting Israel.

Now is the time to stand with Israel as they work to dismantle Hamas, stop its ability to cause more harm to Israelis and Palestinians, and free all the remaining hostages—all of them.

Conditioning aid to Israel after the worst terrorist attack in history would only embolden Israel's enemies, signal to them the limits of America's support, and open the door to more violence.

This is why I am calling on my colleagues, Republicans and Democrats, to pass this aid without conditions. If we are serious about preventing another October 7; if we are serious, really serious, about preventing more gruesome images like the ones my colleagues saw last week—torture, kidnapping, rape, murder, beheading; if we are serious about preventing all of this and serious about a future where the people of Gaza are not ruled by a brutal and barbaric terrorist organization, then we should not delay.

I yield the floor.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 317, Nathalie Rayes, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Croatia.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Brian Schatz, Debbie Stabenow, Catherine Cortez Masto, Tammy Duckworth, Tammy Baldwin, Michael F. Bennet, Christopher A. Coons, Mark R. Warner, Peter Welch, Jack Reed, Christopher Murphy, Jeanne Shaheen, Tina Smith, Mazie Hirono, Margaret Wood Hassan.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Nathalie Rayes, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Croatia, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 53, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 330 Ex.]

YEAS—53

Baldwin	Heinrich	Reed
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hirono	Sanders
Booker	Kaine	Schatz
Brown	Kelly	Schumer
Butler	King	Shaheen
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Sinema
Cardin	Luján	Smith
Carper	Manchin	Stabenow
Casey	Markey	Tester
Collins	Menendez	Van Hollen
Coons	Merkley	Warner
Cortez Masto	Murkowski	Warnock
Duckworth	Murphy	Warren
Durbin	Murray	Welch
Fetterman	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Padilla	Wyden
Hassan	Peters	

NAYS—47

Barrasso	Graham	Ricketts
Blackburn	Grassley	Risch
Boozman	Hagerty	Romney
Braun	Hawley	Rounds
Britt	Hoeben	Rubio
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Capito	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Lankford	Sullivan
Cotton	Lee	Thune
Cramer	Lummis	Tillis
Crapo	Marshall	Tuberville
Cruz	McConnell	Vance
Daines	Moran	Wicker
Ernst	Mullin	Young
Fischer	Paul	

(Mr. LUJÁN assumed the Chair.)

(Mr. HICKENLOOPER assumed the Chair.)

(Mr. KELLY assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). On this vote, the yeas are 53, the nays are 47.

The motion is agreed to.

The Senator from West Virginia.

SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam President, as this body continues to discuss the need for a national security supplemental, I rise today to discuss the important elements that need to be included in this supplemental and to, once again, emphasize the growing demands for increased border security in our country.

For a nation as powerful and as impactful as ours, there are obligations that we inherently have to meet, both to ourselves and our allies. At the center of these obligations rests defending our homeland. This security is imperative to the sovereignty of our Nation, with our other obligation being to support our allies abroad as they face hostilities. We must realize that these two priorities are deeply woven together. We cannot achieve national security as a whole without securing our own borders. In fact, President Biden's own national defense strategy reflects this very sentiment, citing protection of the homeland as the No. 1 defense priority.

It is essential that border security remains one of our four pillars that need to be included in any national security supplemental that is approved by this Congress. In order to properly secure and defend our allies, we must

properly secure and defend our own Nation at the same time.

As I have said on the floor many times, Madam President, with you presiding—I have said many times that there is no doubt that we currently live in a time of heightened national security concern. Not only is this concern felt around the globe but in almost every State and community in our own country because of this crisis at the border.

Because of this crisis at the border, we see chaos. We see it on our news channels every evening. We see the monthly records of illegal crossings—as a matter of fact, I think several days ago, the highest daily number. We see how those who are truly seeking asylum are being disadvantaged by the cartels and smugglers who are playing the system.

It is obvious that the policies which have led to this crisis need to be addressed, and they need to be changed and reformed.

I often talk about American leadership and our historic ability to respond with strength in times of crisis. Well, this is a time of crisis, and our porous southern border is something we desperately need to act upon.

It is not lost on me or on my Republican colleagues, the urgency to address the four central national security emergencies of our time. Ukraine is facing an unjust and unprovoked ground war perpetrated by Russia. Our ally and friend Israel is under attack by terrorists who are holding women and children hostage. The recounting that we have heard of the sexual violence against the women in Israel on October 7 is appalling. Our allies in the Indo-Pacific face heightened concern as rival nations increase their aggression. Right here in the United States, we are facing the worst border crisis in our Nation's history.

These four areas are directly tied together. Ukraine's ability to defend itself and stave off Russian aggression relates directly to the security of Taiwan and the increased posture of China. The terrorist attacks perpetrated on Israel have led to attacks on our own U.S. military bases and ships, as well as the alarming rise—alarming rise—of anti-Semitism that we are seeing in our own country.

Nations directly opposed to the United States—they are opposed to our values, our way of life—are building an uneasy level of camaraderie between one another. You can guarantee that these nations are watching our self-created security crisis at our border and waiting to see when we will finally wake up and react. Our country must take notice of this.

The supplemental text before us does not make any policy changes but instead just throws more money—more money—at a broken system. That is not a solution. It doesn't address the actual policies that are fueling this situation.

The changes in border policy that my party seeks are not “partisan and ex-

treme measures,” as the Democrat leader would lead you to assume, but, rather, they are substantive solutions that address the national security threats that we are now facing.

We encountered a sixfold increase of individuals on our Terror Watchlist just in the past year coming to the southern border. Half of the illegal encounters now on our border are not from Mexico or the Northern Triangle of Central America. Drugs that are made on the other side of the world are smuggled into our country daily, with the goal of sowing destruction and sorrow. Unfortunately, that is having success. We do not know who or what is entering our borders, and that cannot be a risk we are willing to take.

The truth of the matter is, this doesn't need to be a partisan issue, and I know we have colleagues on both sides of the aisle who are trying to work through this. We are not just talking about funding but, rather, changes that ensure that those who enter our country are coming through legal channels and that they are properly vetted. It sounds pretty simple to me—both things that we should all agree are necessary aspects of a working immigration system. But, instead, this administration, the Biden administration, has incentivized abuses of our asylum laws that have led to the greatest border crisis in our Nation's history. It is an open border. It is catch-and-release. This, in turn, has put our national security at risk.

This is not an issue that the Republicans have brought up in the eleventh hour of a negotiation but, rather, something that we have continued to highlight the entire time President Biden has been in the White House.

Members of Congress cannot continue to ignore the deep ties between the sovereignty of the United States and the sovereignty of our allies abroad. The supplemental we have been discussing for weeks is about helping our allies, but also, why is that important? Because we have to advance our own interests at the same time, and the border is a big part of our own interests. This is not a time to play games; instead, it is time to meet the challenges of the moment. While others refuse to accept the reality of the landscape we face, Republicans remain at the table.

For too long—for too long—we have been on the floor voting on radical nominations to advance the Biden administration's agenda instead of on legislation needed to help solve many of the problems I have described, including border security and our weakened defense industrial base and, I would add as a member of the Appropriations Committee, our appropriations bills, which have been teed up since July, and the leader has refused to put them on the floor. All that serves to do is waste time we simply do not have.