

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 19, 2011

Dear Mr. President:

As you prepare to address the United Nations General Assembly this week, we write to express our concern about a number of troubling developments in the Middle East that pose difficult challenges for our ally Israel as well as our own regional security interests.

We are deeply disappointed that President Mahmoud Abbas appears determined to scorn your persistent efforts to persuade him to return to the negotiating table with Israel and instead seek unilateral diplomatic action in New York that will only set back the prospects for peace. We are also troubled by the anti-Israeli rhetoric that Turkish Prime Minister Erdogan has displayed in recent weeks in the wake of the Palmer Report, which is harmful to Turkey's reputation in the United States, especially when coupled with its reluctance to take any meaningful actions in response to the brutal crackdown in Syria. Lastly, the attack on the Israeli Embassy in Cairo earlier this month by a mob was profoundly unsettling. We commend your immediate and direct engagement with Egyptian authorities to save the lives of the six trapped Embassy personnel.

We believe it is imperative for you to speak strongly, forthrightly and publicly about U.S. concerns over these developments. We need to make it clear that we will not tolerate continued threats to Israel by governments or individuals in the region or attempts to delegitimize Israel at the UN or other international forums. Violence and unilateralism against Israel will be met with the strongest U.S. opposition.

Political and physical attacks on Israel pose real dangers to the prospects for building Mideast peace and present the possibility of a region-wide deterioration into violence. Israel's real sense of growing isolation will make it much more difficult to move the Mideast in a positive direction. We therefore urge you to utilize the opportunity offered by your address at the United Nations next week to reaffirm and explain America's determination to stand by Israel at this difficult hour.

The whole world will be watching and listening when you speak at the UN. The world needs to hear unequivocally from you that Israel – our friend, ally, and strategic partner -- is not alone in facing these threats.

Sincerely,



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JOSEPH I. LIEBERMAN  
United States Senator



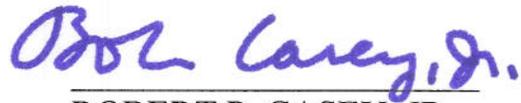
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ROBERT MENENDEZ  
United States Senator



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JON KYL  
United States Senator



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ROBERT P. CASEY, JR.  
United States Senator



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SUSAN M. COLLINS  
United States Senator



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KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND  
United States Senator



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MARK KIRK  
United States Senator



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RICHARD BLUMENTHAL  
United States Senator



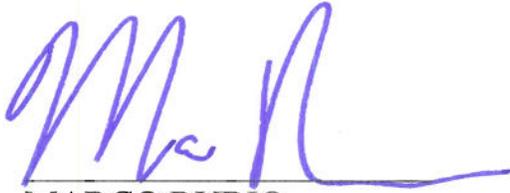
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ORRIN G. HATCH  
United States Senator



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BENJAMIN L. CARDIN  
United States Senator



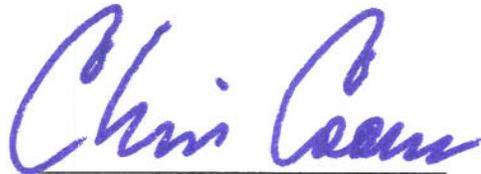
MARCO RUBIO  
United States Senator



CHARLES E. SCHUMER  
United States Senator



JOHNNY ISAKSON  
United States Senator



CHRISTOPHER COONS  
United States Senator