

September 20, 2023

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

**National Security to remain Front and Center of US-Israeli relations**

As a lifelong and true friend of the State of Israel, who has proven his words of love and support for the Jewish State with deeds over decades, we humbly ask you to preserve the national security interests of our two great nations as the top priority as you meet Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in New York.

We represent the largest NGO of defense veterans in Israel, and focus on one thing only: the national security of the State of Israel. We do not dabble in politics and do not presume to be legal, financial, or academic experts. That is why we see it fit to address the leader of Israel's closest ally in the world and advise you not to be sidetracked by the spillover of Israeli domestic politics across the Atlantic, and allow our democratic process to run its course without external influences, including those of well-intended friends. It would be a shame for the US and for Israel if strategic opportunities to advance our interests in the region were to be squandered as a result of political diversions and provocations.

We admire your visionary leadership in the efforts to forge peace between Saudi Arabia and Israel, and to propel the Middle East towards enhanced development and prosperity by linking Asia and Europe by means of infrastructure and energy. In that vein, we underscore that any financial assistance to the Palestinian Authority be conditioned upon its formal rejection of the "Pay for Slay" law that provides state-funded stipends to terrorists, thereby incentivizing terrorism and is paradoxical to the prospects of achieving genuine peace. The possibilities surrounding Israeli-Arab normalization are endless and we welcome and support any effort led by the US that strengthens Israel's national security.

However, we are all too aware of the many common threats we face and the urgent need to address them in a united effort. Iran must be deterred from acquiring nuclear weapons, and the only way of accomplishing that is a credible threat to use force, combined with crippling economic and military sanctions. Once achieved, the US, Israel, and other forces of good in the region can begin to scale back Iranian malign influence for the sake of regional security, stability, and prosperity.

The political views of our eighteen thousand members are diverse across both sides of the political divide in Israel, but it is our duty to support overseas missions of any democratically-elected Israeli prime minister when promoting our national security interests, regardless of their identity. We stand firm in our belief that the national security of Israel is ill-served by the undue de-legitimization of our elected officials, and are concerned that political fervor is getting the best of many of our esteemed colleagues from the security services.

We trust your sound judgment and are confident that the outcome of your upcoming meeting with the Prime Minister will promote the national security and interests of our two countries to even higher levels.

**Respectfully,**


Brigadier General (res) Amir Avivi  
Chairman and Founder, IDSF




Lieutenant Colonel (res) Yaron Buskila  
Executive Director, IDSF




Major General (res) Yizhak Jerry Gershon 

Vice Admiral (res) Eliezer (Eli) Marum 


Major General (res) Gershon Hacohen 


Major General (ret) Shalom Katabi 

Major General (res) Yossi Bachar 

Major General (ret) Aaron Axol 

Major General (res) Kamil Abu Rokon 

Major General (ret) Daniel Hen 

Major General (res) Meir Klifi 

Major General (res) Yosef Mishleb  
Major General (res) Yiftah Ron-Tal  
Major General (res) Dan Biton  
I., former senior Mossad official  
I., former senior Mossad official  
M., former senior ISA official  
Brigadier General (res) Oren Solomon, National Security Council  
Brigadier General (res) Haim Ronen  
Brigadier General (res) Yossi Kuperwasser  
Brigadier General (res) Nehemia Sokel  
Brigadier General (res) Mofid Ganam  
Brigadier General (res) Eli Aharoni  
Brigadier General (res) Efi Eitam  
Brigadier General (res) Sami Holtzken  
Brigadier General (res) Zvika Haimovitz  
Brigadier General (res) Chen Amatzia  
Brigadier General (res) Hasson Hasson  
Brigadier General (res) Oded Tira  
Brigadier General (res) Netanel Cohen  
Brigadier General (res) Harel Cnafo  
Brigadier General (res) Imad Fares  
Brigadier General (res) Eli Peretz  
Brigadier General (res) Yossi Peretz  
Brigadier General (res) Avigdor Kahalani  
Brigadier General (res) Zvika Kraus  
Brigadier General (res) Moshe Sheli  
Brigadier General (res) Avi Gur  
Brigadier General (res) Alex Eyal  
Brigadier General (res) Eliezer Erez  
Brigadier General (res) Moshe Nidam  
Brigadier General (res) Ari Singer

Brigadier General (res) Abraham Assael  
Brigadier General (res) Ofer Zafrir  
Brigadier General (res) Dedy Simchi  
Brigadier General (res) Pini Badash  
Brigadier General (res) Avigdor Klein  
Brigadier General (res) Yossi Adiri  
Brigadier General (res) Aryeh Eldad  
Brigadier General (res) Erez Winner  
Brigadier General (res) Avraham Ben-David  
Brigadier General (res) Giora Martinovich  
Brigadier General (res) Arnon Ben Ami  
Brigadier General (res) Rom Tzuk  
Brigadier General (ret) Suzy Ben Baruch  
Brigadier General (ret) Dorit Ben Meir  
Brigadier General (ret) Haim Afargan  
Brigadier General (ret) Yehuda Solomon  
Brigadier General (ret) Uri Engelhard  
Brigadier General (ret) Rafi Peled  
Brigadier General (ret) Nehamia Yaakov  
Colonel (res) Tal Braun  
Colonel (res) Itzik Ronen  
Colonel (res) Oren Zini  
Colonel (res) Ilan Dikshtein  
Colonel (res) Moti Yogev  
Colonel (res) Efraim Laor  
Colonel (res) Sammy Tzemah  
Colonel (res) Moshe Peled  
Colonel (res) Ezra Mena  
Former Ambassador Eli Yerushalmi  
Former Ambassador Yoram Ettinger  
Former Ambassador Danny Ayalon  
Former Ambassador Daniel Saban

On behalf of the IDSF's 18,000 members

CC:

Senator Bob Menendez, Chairman, Senate Foreign Relations Committee  
Senator James Risch, Ranking Member, Senate Foreign Relations Committee  
Representative Michael McCaul, Chairman House Foreign Relations Committee  
Representative Gregory Meeks, Ranking Member House Foreign Relations Committee  
Israeli Ambassador to the United States Michael Herzog  
Chargé d'Affaires of the United States Embassy to Israel Stephanie Hallett