

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 18, 2023

The Honorable Antony Blinken
United States Secretary of State
The State Department
2201 C Street Northwest
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Blinken,

As a result of the ongoing conflict in Israel and Gaza prompted by Hamas' horrific terror attacks, more than 1.2 million people are in urgent need of lifesaving humanitarian assistance. More than one million people have fled the violence, stretching the already strained ability of the United Nations and humanitarian partners on the ground to provide the food, medical treatment, and shelter they need to survive. In this context, the UN has released an emergency appeal for \$294 million to address these humanitarian needs, help protect displaced people and save countless lives. We urge you to uphold our country's proud tradition of leading the international community in providing lifesaving relief by contributing funding for international humanitarian assistance toward this UN appeal.

We support Israel's right to defend its people against the brutal attacks carried out by Hamas. Hamas knew that the Israeli government would have to respond to the unconscionable murder and hostage-taking of its citizens and thus bears the blame for initiating this conflict. We also know there are many innocent Palestinians in Gaza who do not support Hamas and urgently need help as they seek to flee the fighting. More than one million people in Gaza have fled their homes in search of safety, with nearly half of those taking shelter in UN facilities. The United Nations estimates that Gaza will run out of food and water within days. Healthcare facilities are overwhelmed, running desperately short on supplies and impacted by the lack of electricity. The humanitarian needs on the ground have dramatically increased over the past week, and conditions will likely continue to deteriorate in the days and weeks ahead.

Displaced people around the world depend on lifesaving humanitarian assistance from the UN and its partners to feed their families, receive medical treatment, and secure shelter. The United States should continue its steadfast support for Israel while also doing our part to help the UN assist innocent civilians as they flee the violence. We therefore urge you to join the international community in answering the call from the United Nations by contributing toward this lifesaving \$294 million appeal, and ask that you work with the UN and its partners to ensure that the assistance reaches the intended recipients without diversion or delay.

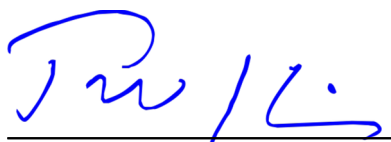
Sincerely,



Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



Tim Kaine
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Raphael Warnock
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Alex Padilla
United States Senator



Peter Welch
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator



Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Tina Smith
United States Senator



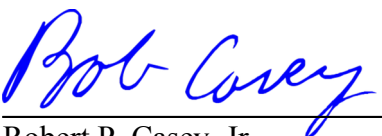
Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



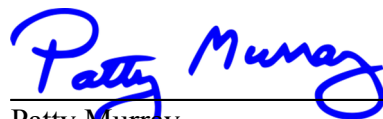
Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



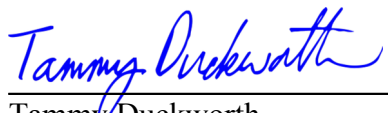
Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



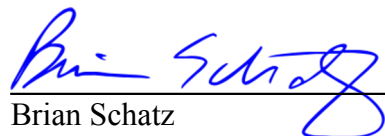
Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator



Patty Murray
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



Brian Schatz
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



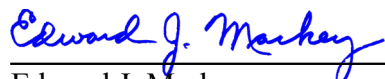
Jon Ossoff
United States Senator



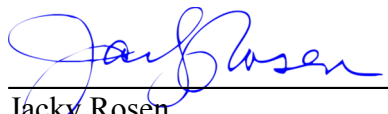
Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



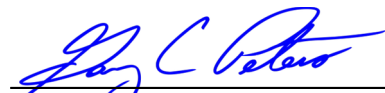
Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



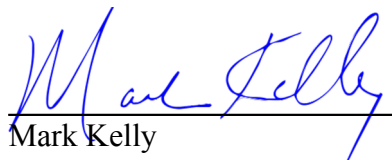
Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Jacky Rosen
United States Senator



Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



Mark Kelly
United States Senator



John Hickenlooper
United States Senator



Jack Reed
United States Senator



Maggie Hassan
Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator