



# Open Letter from Retired U.S. Military Leaders In Support of Israel During Operation Swords of Iron

October 7, 2023 was one of the darkest days in Israel's history as the Iran-backed terrorist group Hamas launched a barbaric attack killing and injuring thousands. The days since have been no less bloody. To minimize the further loss of innocent lives, the United States should fully support Israel as it fights back against this terrorist threat.

As retired American military leaders who devoted our lives to defending the nation, and many of whom served in the Middle East, we stand beside Israel and recognize its right to defend itself against the Iran-backed terrorist threats that surround it on all sides. To borrow from Winston Churchill, Israel might be fighting by itself alone but it is not fighting for itself alone. We have seen firsthand how Israel shares and helps protect American interests and values; we should not hesitate to come to Israel's aid in its hour of need.

We know the importance of having adequate supply of weapons to being able to fight back effectively, and the dangers of running low on ammunition and waiting for resupply in the middle of a war. We understand clearly how strong and unwavering U.S. support for Israel reduces the dangers of further escalation and attack. And we appreciate the great efforts of the Israel Defense Forces to follow international law in their operations against enemies that intentionally abuse those same laws to endanger civilians and portray Israel as the aggressor.

We commend the Biden administration for its swift and firm support for Israel and Congress's many statements of support. Unfortunately, with Israel facing a protracted conflict, more assistance will be needed. We call upon the Biden administration and Congress to work together in a bipartisan manner to continue giving Israel the support it needs – militarily, diplomatically, logistically and with intelligence – for as long as it needs to defend itself and eliminate this threat. This should include immediate resupply to Israel of American-produced munitions that are critical to protecting Israeli civilians from the terrorists' indiscriminate rocket attacks. The United States should continue to reinforce, through word and action, President Biden's important message of American deterrence to Iran, Hezbollah, and "any party hostile to Israel" not "to exploit these attacks to seek advantage," especially through efforts to widen the war to other fronts or by targeting U.S. forces deployed in the region. U.S. assistance should also extend to defending Israel in all international settings, especially at the United Nations, from the spurious accusations that are certain to be levied against it.

Israel is strong enough to defend itself, by itself. It will prevail, regardless the cost. With American assistance, that cost can, and should, be reduced. Steadfast American support will not only help Israel defend itself today but also signal to the world – U.S. friends and foes alike – that America remains a force to be counted on.

Gen Joseph F. Dunford Jr., USMC (ret.)  
ADM Edmund P. Giambastiani, Jr., USN (ret.)  
Gen James Amos, USMC (ret.)  
Gen James Conway, USMC (ret.)  
GEN Frank Grass, USA (ret.)  
ADM Jonathan Greenert, USN (ret.)  
Gen Robert B. Neller, USMC (ret.)  
Gen Mark A. Welsh III, USAF (ret.)  
ADM Paul Zukunft, USCG (ret.)  
Gen Philip Breedlove, USAF (ret.)  
Gen Kevin Chilton, USAF (ret.)  
ADM William E. Gortney, USN (ret.)  
ADM Timothy Keating, USN (ret.)  
Gen Duncan J. McNabb, USAF (ret.)  
Gen C.T. "Tony" Robertson, Jr., USAF (ret.)  
GEN David Rodriguez, USA (ret.)  
GEN Walter Sharp, USA (ret.)  
GEN James D. Thurman, USA (ret.)  
Gen Thomas Waldhauser, USMC (ret.)  
Gen William Begert, USAF (ret.)  
ADM Bruce Clingan, USN (ret.)  
Gen Donald G. Cook, USAF (ret.)  
Gen Terrence R. Dake, USMC, (ret.)  
ADM Mark Fitzgerald, USN (ret.)  
ADM Michelle J. Howard, USN (ret.)  
ADM Jerome Johnson, USN (ret.)  
Gen Gregory S. Martin, USAF (ret.)  
Gen W.L. Nyland, USMC (ret.)

GEN Dave Perkins, USA (ret.)  
Gen Chuck Wald, USAF (ret.)  
Gen Steve Wilson, USAF (ret.)  
LTG Robert Ashley, USA (ret.)  
VADM Gerald R. Beaman, USN (ret.)  
LTG Mick Bednarek, USA (ret.)  
Lt Gen William Bender, USAF (ret.)  
VADM John Bird, USN (ret.)  
LtGen Arthur Blades, USMC (ret.)  
LTG H Steven Blum, USA (ret.)  
Lt Gen Walter Buchanan, USAF (ret.)  
VADM William Burke, USN (ret.)  
LtGen George R. (Ron) Christmas, USMC (ret.)  
LtGen Thomas L. Conant, USMC (ret.)  
VADM Bob Conway, USMC (ret.)  
LtGen Jon Davis, USMC (ret.)  
Lt Gen David A. Deptula, USAF (ret.)  
Lt Gen Eric Fiel, USAF (ret.)  
VADM Mark Fox, USN (ret.)  
LTG David P. Fridovich, USA (ret.)  
Lt Gen Mike Gould, USAF (ret.)  
Lt Gen Joseph Guastella Jr., USAF (ret.)  
LtGen Earl Hailston, USMC (ret.)  
VADM Robert Harward, USN (ret.)  
LTG John D. Johnson, USA (ret.)  
VADM Dennis A. Jones USN (ret.)  
VADM Mary E. Landry, USCG (ret.)  
LTG Stephen Lanza, USA (ret.)

LTG Kevin Mangum, USA (ret.)  
LTG Raymond Mason, USA (ret.)  
Lt Gen Charles May, USAF (ret.)  
LTG William Mayville, USA (ret.)  
LtGen Frederick McCorkle, USMC (ret.)  
Lt Gen Kevin McLaughlin, USAF (ret.)  
RADM William F. Merlin, USCG (ret.)  
VADM John Miller, USN (ret.)  
LtGen Rich Mills, USMC (ret.)  
Lt Gen C D Moore, USAF, (ret.)  
LtGen R. F. Natonski, USMC (ret.)  
Lt Gen Chris Nowland, USAF (ret.)  
Lt Gen Tad Oelstrom, USAF (ret.)  
LTG Raymond Palumbo, USA (ret.)  
LtGen Frank Panter, USMC (ret.)  
VADM Brian Peterman, USCG (ret.)  
VADM Carol Pottenger, USN (ret.)  
LtGen John Sattler, USMC (ret.)  
Lt Gen Mark Shackelford, USAF (ret.)  
VADM Herman Shelanski, USN (ret.)  
Lt Gen Jay Silveria, USAF (ret.)  
LTG Thomas Spoehr, USA (ret.)  
VADM Sandra Stosz, USCG (ret.)  
LtGen John Toolan, USMC (ret.)  
Lt Gen Thomas Trask, USAF (ret.)  
LtGen George J. Trautman, USMC (ret.)  
LTG Keith Walker, USA (ret.)  
Lt Gen John L. Woodward Jr., USAF (ret.)

RADM Fred Ames, USCG (ret.)  
RADM Charles J. Beers Jr., USN (ret.)  
RADM Garry J. Bonelli, USN (ret.)  
Maj Gen Jack Catton, USAF (ret.)  
MajGen Mark A. Clark, USMC (ret.)  
Maj Gen Richard T. Devereaux, USAF (ret.)  
MajGen Jon A. Gallinetti, USMC (ret.)  
Maj Gen Kenneth R. Israel, USAF (ret.)  
RADM Brian Losey, USN (ret.)  
MajGen Bradley Lott, USMC (ret.)  
MajGen Jarvis Lynch, USMC (ret.)  
MG John Macdonald, USA, (ret.)  
RADM Edward Masso, USN (ret.)  
Maj Gen James C. McCombs, USAF (ret.)  
RADM Terry McKnight, USN (ret.)  
RADM Mark R. Milliken, USN (ret.)  
MG William C. Moore, USA (ret.)  
MajGen Gordon Nash, USMC (ret.)  
MajGen Dave Richwine, USMC (ret.)  
RADM Harold L. Robinson, USN (ret.)  
RADM Scott Sanders, USN (ret.)  
Maj Gen Lawrence Stutzriem, USAF (ret.)  
MajGen Larry Taylor, USMCR (ret.)  
RADM Jeremy D. Taylor, USN (ret.)  
MajGen Kenneth W. Weir, USMCR (ret.)  
BG Anne MacDonald, USA (ret.)  
BGen Michael Mulqueen, USMC (ret.)

The Jewish Institute for National Security of America (JINSA) is dedicated to advancing U.S. national security interests in the Middle East, of which a critical pillar is a robust U.S.-Israel security relationship. JINSA believes that Israel is the most capable and critical U.S. security partner in the 21st century and that a strong America is the best guarantor of Western civilization.