

Congress Weighs In on Arab Attacks Against Israel and Israel's Response

(Note: If a lawmaker from our region is not listed, we were not able to find a statement or tweet from them on the subject.)

U.S. Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA): “#Israel has endured rocket attacks from # Hamas terrorists targeting civilians. We must stand shoulder-to-shoulder with our key ally in the region and support Israel’s fundamental right to defend its people from terrorism.”

U.S. Rep. Brendan Boyle (D-PA): “WASHINGTON, DC - I condemn today's rocket attacks by Hamas against civilians in Israel. What is happening in Gaza and Jerusalem today is not a struggle over the freedom of worship. It is politically motivated violence intended to incite even more violence and conflict. These attacks do nothing to further any potential for peace & security in that region, and Israel, like any other sovereign country, has the absolute right to defend its citizens against these terrorist attacks.”

U.S. Rep. Chrissy Houlahan (D-PA): “The escalating conflict between the Palestinian and Israeli people should concern us all. Destabilizing efforts in the Middle East have global ramifications and, as evidenced by these past few days, result in horrific death of innocent civilians. Hamas is a terrorist organization, against which Israel has the right to defend itself. The United States will stand firm with its sole democratic ally in the Middle East. I call upon Israeli and Palestinian leaders to immediately engage in diplomatic efforts and take de-escalatory measures. We are seeing Israeli and Palestinian children murdered in the streets of Jerusalem and Gaza. The U.S. stands ready to support a cease-fire and end this violence.” (ZOA note: There were no children “murdered in the streets of Jerusalem”.)

U.S. Rep. Scott Perry (R-PA) [who issued multiple tweets]: (1): “If the Palestinians put down their arms today, peace would ensue. If Israel put down their arms today, there would be no more Israel. We must be unequivocal: the US will always support our brothers and sisters in Israel. #StandWithIsrael” (2): “The goal of Hamas is to terrorize the Jewish people into abandoning Israel. Perhaps my colleague @IlhanMN needs a reminder that there’s an Iron Dome over Israel to begin w/ bc they exist with terrorists for neighbors — and now must respond to unprovoked acts of war. #StandWithIsrael” (3): “My prayers and actions are with our ally Israel, who is currently under attack by the terrorist group, Hamas. The United States stands with Israel. #StandWithIsrael #Israel”

U.S. Rep. Lloyd Smucker (R-PA): “Our strong ally Israel has every right to defend itself from Hamas. America stands with Israel.”

U.S. Rep. Susan Wild (D-PA): “I am extremely disturbed by the ongoing confrontations and violence in Jerusalem and Gaza, and I am monitoring the situation closely. The cycle of attacks and retaliation that has destroyed the lives of far too many civilians – Israelis and Palestinians – will never lead to a peaceful or secure region, for anyone.

“Palestinians are entitled to fundamental human rights and respect, and provocations that undermine everyday Palestinians’ dignity must end. Israelis are entitled to live in peace and security, and the rockets fired into Israel by Hamas are a threat that no nation would accept. Israeli and Palestinian leaders must now use their positions of power to immediately deescalate tensions, not continue to pour fuel on an already raging fire.

“Violence, especially on holy days and against civilians, is unacceptable. Enough bloodshed and loss of innocent life. We desperately need to remember our shared humanity and the common hopes and aspirations that should bind together Israelis and Palestinians alike.”

U.S. Rep. Donald Norcross (D-NJ): “Indiscriminate rocket attacks by Hamas must stop. I strongly condemn these attacks on innocent civilians & call on Israeli & Palestinian leaders to de-escalate & work towards a lasting peace for both peoples.”

Senator Chris Coons (D-DE) [who issued multiple tweets]: (1): “I condemn the ongoing violence in Jerusalem, the sacred home of Jews, Muslims, and Christians alike, and especially Hamas’ recent attacks on the holy city.” (2): “The barrage of rocket attacks into Israel is an unacceptable escalation that must cease immediately. Actions like this are not consistent with the cause of peace.” (3): “I also remain concerned about evictions in East Jerusalem, settlement expansion, and home demolitions, unilateral actions that place a two-state solution further out of reach.” (4): “I urge all parties to exercise restraint and call on Israeli and Palestinian officials to de-escalate tensions, refrain from further provocations, and renounce the violence immediately.”

Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ) issued a news release: “WASHINGTON – In response to the escalating cycle of violence between Israelis and Palestinians in Jerusalem that has led to Hamas firing rockets indiscriminately into Israel, including several toward Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, U.S. Senators Bob Menendez (D-N.J.), Ben Cardin (D-Md.), and Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) condemned attacks on civilians, and called for renewed efforts toward a lasting peace. Menendez is Chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Cardin is Chair of the U.S. Helsinki Commission, and Wyden is Chair of the Senate Finance Committee.

“Ongoing rocket attacks from Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad are terrorism and no country should have to tolerate this kind of threat against its population. Israel has every right to self-defense and we mourn all the innocent Israeli and Palestinian civilians who have lost their lives.

“Israeli and Palestinian political and military leaders must actively discourage any actions that provoke more violence, and the Israeli Police must take steps to lower tensions throughout Jerusalem. Unilateral actions by any party that take us further away from the prospect of a durable peace through direct negotiations must cease. We applaud the decision of the Supreme Court to delay the hearing regarding potential eviction of Palestinian families in Sheikh Jarrah and Silwan neighborhoods of Jerusalem.

“We are committed to sustaining a U.S.-Israel relationship based on shared democratic values and our vital security partnership. We are also committed to continuing to engage Israelis and Palestinians to find ways to live together with peace, freedom, security and dignity; and achieve a two-state solution, as the Biden administration has set out to do following decades of consistent US policy. A sustainable peace that ensures the long-term security of Israel and self-determination for Palestinians is the only viable outcome for the region.

“As supporters of last year’s Abraham Accords as a way to cement Israel’s permanent place in the region and halt unilateral annexation, we call on all responsible parties to take steps to de-escalate and find ways back to negotiations.””

Menendez also posted three tweets: (1): “The barrage of rocket attacks from Hamas are terrorism and no country should have to tolerate this kind of threat against its population. These brazen acts threaten the safety & security of Israelis & Palestinians.” (2): “I’m committed to sustaining a US-Israel relationship based on shared democratic values & our vital security partnership. I’m also committed to keep engaging Israelis & Palestinians to find ways to live together with peace, freedom, security & dignity through a two-state solution.” (3): “Gravely concerned by the cycle of violence between Israelis & Palestinians. Political & military leaders must discourage agitators from further actions that yield more bloodshed, & the Israeli National Police must lower tensions throughout Jerusalem.”

Senator Pat Toomey (R-PA) issued a news release: “Toomey, Colleagues Urge President Biden to Stand with Israel

“Washington, D.C. – U.S. Senator Pat Toomey (R-Pa.) joined Senator Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) and 42 of his Republican colleagues in sending a letter urging President Biden to stand with Israel as Iranian-backed terrorists continue a deadly assault against the nation. The Biden Administration is currently pursuing negotiations with Iran, even floating the potential of sanctions relief. In the letter, the senators call on President Biden to immediately end negotiations.

“Over the past couple days, Palestinian terrorists in Gaza, who are funded by Iran, have launched a series of rocket attacks into Israel,” wrote the senators. “They are targeting Israeli civilians and cities, including Israel’s capital Jerusalem. This is troubling as members of your administration are currently in Vienna negotiating with Iran, the world’s leading state sponsor of terrorism.”

“The United States must not do anything to enrich Israel’s enemies, such as by offering sanctions relief to a regime that seeks to destroy Israel,” continued the senators. “As a longtime friend of the Jewish state, we also urge you to unequivocally support Israel’s right to defend itself against any and all terrorist attacks.””

Toomey also tweeted: “ Hamas terrorists have fired hundreds of rockets at Israel in the last 24 hours. This is a reminder of what a malign force Iran is in the region. Now is not the time to provide Tehran with sanctions relief.”