

July 23, 2024

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Democratic Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
S-221, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
S-230, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Johnson, Leader Jeffries, Majority Leader Schumer, and Leader McConnell,

The United States and Israel's strong relationship, which is anchored in our shared values and common interests, has endured for nearly a century, and must be fortified for generations to come. We always have and always will value and appreciate the immutable bond between Israel and America and we believe it is vital for the security of both nations that this friendship remains strong.

As a bipartisan group of leaders who have served the State of Israel for decades - in the defense establishment, industry, academic, legal and public service sectors - we write to you with grave concerns about Prime Minister Netanyahu's visit to the United States and the damage it may do to our joint objectives.

1. **This visit prioritizes his personal political survivability over our shared interests.** Netanyahu has lost the support of the Israeli people and is trying to shore up his domestic coalition through a show of force in the United States.
2. **Congress will be hosting a leader without a mandate and one who is facing prosecution for major crimes.** Netanyahu has an unprecedented legal conflict of interest with the State of Israel. He is facing a criminal trial for bribery, fraud, and breach of trust. He is also under formal investigation and, more recently, received an official warning letter by the State Commission of Inquiry for alleged personal wrongdoing and state security obstruction in an extremely sensitive matter concerning Israel's national security, known as the "Submarines Affair."
3. **He remains unwilling to conceptualize a post-war plan, and continues destabilizing the national security of both Israel and the U.S.** He bears responsibility for the war due to his failed risk assessment of the Gaza border by relocating needed forces in support of his messianic political partners' demands, and his longtime reckless support of building up Hamas to counter the Palestinian Authority. He alone is to blame

for a lack of victory over Hamas as a result of his resistance to a set of National Strategic Goals for the war.

We cannot overstate this: Prime Minister Netanyahu poses an existential threat to the State of Israel. He has no clear strategic objectives for the war in Gaza, no plan for the day after, nor a strategy for how to deal with the existential threat of Iran. For decades, he has been inciting Israelis against each other, damaging our national social fabric, dramatically harming our defense capabilities, eroding our economy and devastating our international standing.

Further, Netanyahu severely harms the US national security interests through his approach to this war, which adversely impacts American policy in the Middle East and beyond and further endangers Israel.

We thank you for your continued support and urge you to remain stalwart allies of Israel and encourage Prime Minister Netanyahu to put the safety, security and future of Israel and the Israeli-US strategic relations before his own political and personal interests. Our safety and security depend on it – as does yours.

Respectfully,

Senior officials of Israel's security establishment over the past decades:

1. Lt. General (Ret.) Dan Haloutz – Former IDF's Chief of Staff
2. Mr. Tamir Pardo – Former Director of the Mossad
3. Lt. General (Ret.) Moshe (Bogie) Ya'alon – Former Defense Minister & IDF's Chief of Staff
4. Major General (Ret.) Ilan Biran – Former Director of the Ministry of Defense, Former Chairman of Rafael Advanced Defense Systems Ltd.
5. Major General (Ret.) Matan Vilnai – Former IDF Deputy Chief of Staff, Former Ambassador of Israel to China
6. Prof. Uzi Arad – Former Head of the National Security Council
7. Mr. David Meidan – Former Division Director in the Mossad
8. Mr. Yehiam Mart – Former Division Director in the Mossad
9. Mr. Haim Tomer – Former Division Director in the Mossad
10. Major General (Ret.) Amnon Reshef – Former Commanding General of the Armored Corps
11. Mr. Arie Pelman – Former Deputy Director of the Shin Bet
12. Mr. Naftali Granot – Former Deputy Director of the Mossad
13. Brigadier General (Ret.) Amal Asad – Former Commander of District Coordination and Liaison
14. Brigadier General (Ret.) Dovik Tamari – Former Commander of the IDF Command and Staff College
15. Colonel (Ret.) Itamar Yaar – Former Deputy Head of the National Security Council
16. Mr. Eran Etzion – Former Deputy Head of the National Security Council
17. Adv. Eli Bahar – Former General Counsel and Head of Legal Division of the Shin-Bet

Senior executives of Israel's industries, ambassadors, senior members of Israel's academy, and business leaders over the past decades:

1. Prof. Aaron Ciechanover – Nobel Prize Laureate in Chemistry 2004, Israel Prize Laureate in Biology 2003

2. Prof Avishay Braverman – Israel Prize Laureate for Lifetime Achievement 2020, Former President of Ben Gurion University
3. Prof. Gabriela Shalev – Former Ambassador of Israel to the United Nations
4. Dr. Jeremy Levin – Chairman Emeritus of BIO, Former CEO Teva Pharmaceuticals
5. Colonel (Ret.) Jacob (Kobi) Richter – Medinol Ltd. and Orbotek Ltd. Co-Founder
6. Mr. Morris Kahn – Entrepreneur & Philanthropist
7. Mr. Orni Petruschka – Hi-Tech Entrepreneur
8. Prof. Ruth Halperin-Kaddari – Former Vice-President of the UN Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
9. Mr. Alon Pinkas – Former Consul General of Israel in New York City
10. Prof. Rivka Carmi – MD, former President of Ben Gurion University
11. Adv. Dina Zilber – Former Deputy of the Attorney General of Israel
12. Adv. Talia Sasson – Former Director of Special Tasks Department in the State Attorney's Office
13. Dr. Ilan Samish – Founder and CEO of Amai Proteins
14. Adv. Moshe Gavish – Former Director of Israel Tax Authority, Former Chairman of Mercantile Bank
15. Colonel (Ret.) Mordechai (Moudi) Ben-Shach – Former CEO / Co-Owner Paz Oil Company