



Representative Cori Bush  
2463 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

October 11, 2023

Dear Rep. Bush,

On behalf of the Union for Reform Judaism, the largest denomination in American Jewish life including a vibrant network of nearly 850 Reform synagogues, I write to express our unequivocal and strong opposition to your call for an end to U.S. military aid to Israel in the aftermath of Hamas's heinous attack of October 7. Your comments at this time when Israel has seen more than 1200 deaths, approximately 150 hostages taken, and thousands more injured, are shameful.

For more than seven decades, Israel has faced unique challenges as a nation bordered by hostile enemies. Throughout multiple wars instigated by those enemies, Israel has persevered thanks to the bravery of its people and international support. The U.S., which was the first country to officially recognize the Jewish state, has been an invaluable ally, a position that has also served U.S. strategic interests.

That is why, at this terrible moment, we find your call to end U.S. military aid for Israel incomprehensible. Though legitimate criticism of Israeli policies is a healthy part of any public discourse, what country would accept the murder of hundreds of its young people at a music festival, the rape of scores of its women, the abduction of its children, and the parading of its kidnapped people through the streets of Gaza?

October 7 was not just the Sabbath, but the end of the Fall holiday season. Our prayers throughout the season were for a new year of peace. The tragedy that befell Israel this past weekend has shattered those prayers. We will have to find the resolve to continue working toward a day when every child can grow up without the fear of war and with the opportunities that every child deserves.

The U.S. has always played a unique and essential role advancing peace between Israel and her neighbors, including Egypt and Jordan. A sacred partnership calls for connection, yet your comments would create division, further hindering efforts toward peace. Now is the time to strengthen U.S. engagement, not withdraw it.

Sincerely,  
/s/  
Rabbi Rick Jacobs  
President



