



Sister Dina <sisterdina.3@gmail.com>

Responding to your message

Office of U.S. Senator Raphael Warnock <do_not_reply@warnock.senate.gov>
To: sisterdina.3@gmail.com

Fri, Nov 15, 2024 at 7:05 PM

RAPHAEL WARNOCK
GEORGIA

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1012

Dear Sister Michel-Wiggins,

Thank you for contacting me to express your concerns about the ongoing situation in Israel.

On October 7, 2024, we mourned the first anniversary of the horrific October 7th Hamas terrorist attack on Israel. One year ago, the world watched in horror as we witnessed a devastating attack on defenseless Israelis by Hamas terrorists. In observation of this tragic anniversary, I released a statement to emphasize my sympathy for the immense pain felt by the people affected by that attack and my continued prayers for all those mourning lost loved ones and for the urgent return of all of Hamas' hostages. In addition, I reaffirmed my strong commitment to Israel's security, especially in the wake of Iran's recent assault and continued funding of proxy forces to antagonize our ally. If you would like to read my full statement, you can do so on my website here: <https://www.warnock.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/senator-reverend-warnock-statement-on-first-anniversary-of-oct-7-hamas-terrorist-attack/>.

I have met directly with family members of both American and Israeli hostages in my office, and I continue to pray for the hundreds of hostages who are still being held captive by terrorist actors in the region. I cosponsored S. Res. 408, a bipartisan resolution condemning Hamas for its premeditated, coordinated, and brutal terrorist attacks on Israel and demanding that Hamas immediately release all hostages and return them to safety. This resolution also demands that Hamas provide access and medical care to all hostages, and calls on the United States to lead a global campaign to demand the release of all hostages held captive by Hamas. I was glad to see this bipartisan resolution unanimously pass the Senate on November 9, 2023 with my support. Additionally, on December 14, 2023, I cosponsored S.Res. 505, a bipartisan resolution condemning the use of sexual and gender-based violence by Hamas against the people of Israel. I was thankful and heartened to see that on November 24, 2023, a U.S.-brokered agreement led to a temporary pause in fighting and the release of dozens of hostages. I hope that these actions will be the beginning of a path toward a sustainable peace and a safe and secure future for both Israelis and Palestinians.

Our key ally in the Middle East, Israel has a moral responsibility to protect its citizens from indiscriminate harm and the kind of vile attacks we saw on October 7, as any country would. I support the 2016 Memorandum of Understanding between the United States and Israel, and I cosponsored and introduced S. Res. 417, a bipartisan resolution expressing solidarity with Israel in the wake of the unprovoked Hamas terrorist attack. The resolution reaffirmed American support for Israel at a critical period for U.S.-Israel relations as Israel and Hamas are at war. I was glad to see this bipartisan resolution unanimously pass the Senate on October 19, 2023, with my support.

As your U.S. Senator, I will continue to support efforts in the Senate to bolster the partnership between

our nations. That is why I voted in favor of H.R. 815, legislation making emergency supplemental appropriations for Fiscal Year 2024, which the President signed into law on April 24, 2024. This legislation provides over \$14.1 billion in security assistance for Israel's urgent and long-term security needs, as well as robust funding for the vital humanitarian needs of people in Gaza. Additionally, on May 13, 2024, I joined my colleagues in sending a letter to the Senate Appropriations Committee requesting \$85 million in funding for the U.S. Security Coordinator for Israel and the Palestinian Authority, a crucial link between the government of Israel and the Palestinian Authority devoted to shared security.

In the long-term, we must all recommit toward a two-state solution that will preserve life, maintain peace, and allow both Israelis and Palestinians to live with peace, security, and dignity. I truly believe most Israelis and Palestinians want to live side-by-side in harmony and desire a solution that will facilitate peace and serve people of all backgrounds.

I recognize that with this issue, many have strong feelings and concerns, and you can be assured I will take your views into consideration during any discussions about this issue in the U.S. Senate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Warnock" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Reverend Raphael Warnock
United States Senator