Coalition for Jewish Values

NACL National Association of Christian Lawmakers

A JOINT STATEMENT OF JEWISH AND CHRISTIAN LEADERS

An Open Letter from Jews, Christians, and Allies

Israel Is America's Friend. Jewish Safety Is Non-Negotiable.

October 29, 2026

To our fellow Americans:

We are Jewish rabbis, Christian lawmakers, and allies from across the United States. We write with grave concern over statements and political associations of Dr. Abdul El-Sayed, Michigan's Democratic nominee for the United States Senate. His rhetoric regarding Israel, his response to an attempted massacre at a Michigan synagogue, and his deliberate political associations raise serious questions about leadership, judgment, and the responsibility to confront antisemitism.

Israel Is America's Friend and a Strategic Asset to America. On October 19, El-Sayed told ABC News that Israel is "not actually our friend." He argued that an ally taking American money and pushing America into unnecessary wars is no ally. He has also accused Israel's government of having "done nothing but use us," accused its military of committing "full war crimes, genocide," and called Israel "bloodthirsty" and an "apartheid regime."

Americans should debate particular Israeli policies, just as they debate the policies of any democratic ally. But portraying an entire allied nation as an adversary that exploits the United States is a fundamentally different proposition. El-Sayed devalues the extraordinary contributions of one of America's most important strategic partners.

Israel is a democracy, a beacon of freedom and human achievement in a region challenged by authoritarianism and extremism. Since its founding in 1948, it has built a vibrant society distinguished by scientific discovery, medical innovation, technological advancement, and democratic institutions, all while defending its citizens against terrorism and persistent threats to its existence.

The U.S.–Israel alliance is not an act of charity. It is a partnership between two nations committed to representative government and the rule of law, whose shared values and strategic interests make both nations stronger.

Israel protects Americans. Israeli intelligence has repeatedly helped thwart terror threats against Americans, both in the air and on the ground. The United States and Israel cooperate in advanced technology, missile defense, and the protection of American and allied personnel at an often-unparalleled level.

The question is not whether America can afford its partnership with Israel. It is whether America can afford to weaken a partnership that contributes so profoundly to its own security. At a time of persistent terrorist threats and growing regional instability, America is stronger when Israel is secure, and the free world is better served when these two friends stand together.

Jewish Safety Is Not Negotiable. On March 12, a terrorist attacked Temple Israel in West Bloomfield, Michigan, home to a synagogue and a preschool. The following day, El-Sayed released a video declaring that "hurt people hurt people" and asked audiences to imagine a world without airstrikes in Lebanon or war in Iran.

He explained away an attack on Jews in Michigan due to a war against terrorism 6000 miles away. Jewish Americans are not representatives of a foreign government, and must never be made to answer for events overseas.

In September, Michigan Jewish clergy asked El-Sayed to affirm five fundamental principles, beginning with "Jewish safety, including for Zionist Jews, in Michigan and across America." On October 21, having received no response, they added that "your silence only deepens our concern."

Jewish Americans, including Zionist Jews, are entitled to safety, equal protection, and full participation in American life. Israel's right to defend itself must never become a pretext for targeting Jews or supporters of Israel in the United States. No American should face intimidation, discrimination, or violence because of their Jewish identity, their support for Israel, or their commitment to the Jewish people's right to self-determination. And these basic principles should not be up for debate.

Public Leadership Requires Moral Clarity. El-Sayed campaigned alongside Hasan Piker, a prominent political streamer whose statements about Jews, Israel, and Hamas have provoked widespread condemnation. According to campaign records, they appeared together on three separate occasions.

Piker has declared that "Hamas is 1,000 times better" than Israel, and that "It doesn't matter if rape happened on October 7th." He also warned that if American Jews continue identifying themselves closely with Israel, "eventually someone's going to come around and take action… against American Jews."

Only after Piker sparked intense pressure from fellow Democrats with that last comment did El-Sayed distance himself. One must question what this reveals about El-Sayed's personal judgment when the safety and dignity of Jewish Americans are at stake.

El-Sayed's earlier political record and the reported financial and organizational relationships also warrant scrutiny. Those matters should be assessed on the basis of verified records, not insinuation. In particular, the fact that he and his PACs have received hundreds of thousands of dollars from people associated with the Islamic Society of North America (ISNA) and a fund associated with the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) should cause serious concern, given that both organizations were named as unindicted co-conspirators in the Holy Land Foundation trial regarding financing of terrorism.

Both are also associated with the Muslim Brotherhood, an organization supported by numerous members of El-Sayed's family. When challenged, he initially deflected rather than disavowed this group, so dangerous and hostile to American freedoms and values.

Our Call to American Leaders. We call on every political leader who has endorsed El-Sayed to address the concerns raised by his statements about Israel, his response to the attack on Temple Israel, and his repeated campaign appearances with Piker. We ask them to affirm unequivocally that Israel is a valued American ally, that Jewish Americans, including Zionist Jews, are entitled to equal protection and safety, and that violence against Jews must never be explained away by reference to events in the Middle East.

We also call on American leaders of every party to condemn antisemitism without qualification, reject the normalization of rhetoric that threatens or dehumanizes Jews, and defend the U.S.–Israel alliance as a partnership that advances American security and democratic interests.

We speak together as Jews, Christians, and allies because these principles transcend party and faith. The defense of Israel and the protection of American Jews are complementary expressions of our commitment to democratic freedom, religious liberty, and human dignity.

We ask Americans of every faith and political persuasion to stand with us in affirming two truths that must never be in doubt:

Israel is America's friend, and Jewish safety is non-negotiable.

Respectfully,

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