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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON  
INTELLIGENCE

September 20, 2024

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.  
President of the United States  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden,

Thank you for your leadership and continued efforts both to support our ally Israel, and to bring an end to the war in Gaza. As a member of the Intelligence and Armed Services Committees, and a former member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, I appreciate your commitment to finding a solution that will ensure a lasting peace and a durable two-state solution. I continue to be deeply concerned, however, by Prime Minister Netanyahu's ongoing military strategy, including the IDF's use of 2,000-pound bombs in a densely populated humanitarian zone southwest of Khan Younis on September 10, 2024.

Last December, I sent you a letter alongside a group of my colleagues expressing our concern about Israel's military strategy in this conflict, noting then that we believed it jeopardized efforts to destroy the terrorist organization Hamas and secure the release of all hostages. As this war has continued, I have seen no appreciable changes in Israel's strategy and in fact, the civilian death toll and humanitarian crisis in Gaza has continued. This recent bombing on September 10 is particularly alarming because your Administration paused the shipment of 2,000- and 500-pound bombs to Israel in May 2024 due to concerns about usage in densely populated civilian areas. Though I am thankful that your Administration has continued to withhold 2,000-pound bombs, I have concerns about the origins of the weapons used on the al-Mawasi humanitarian zone.

I ask if your Administration is aware of if the 2,000 bombs used on September 10 were U.S.-made, and if so, is it your belief that these weapons were sent prior to the embargo in May? More specifically, do you know when exactly these weapons were sent? Given the continued pause on 2,000-pound bombs, has your Administration expressed your concern about the use of these weapons, especially on densely populated civilian areas, to Prime Minister Netanyahu? I

encourage you to have those conversations if you haven't already and support continued embargoes of heavy bombs.

Over the last 11 months, civilians across Gaza have been told by the Israeli government and the IDF to evacuate to al-Mawasi for safety. Hundreds of thousands occupy the 16-square mile area. I understand the difficult nature of this conflict, as Hamas is not using strategies that protect the lives of the Palestinian people. However, the use of heavy bombs on one of the only remaining humanitarian zones in Gaza with a high concentration of civilians is not in line with U.S. values and does not advance the cause of security for Israel or protect innocent civilians from catastrophic harm.

To restate from the December letter, I have dedicated my life to national security and service and believe our nation's values are a source of credibility and power. I know from personal experience that you cannot destroy a terror ideology with military force.

As we reach the solemn anniversary of the horrific tragedy that took place on October 7, 2023, with more than 100 people (including Americans) still held captive by Hamas, it is past time that this war come to an end. Hamas' recent change in strategy calling for hostages to be executed if the IDF gets close, as we saw with the death of six hostages including American Hersh Goldberg-Polin, underscores this immediate need.

I appreciate your steadfast efforts to secure a hostage and ceasefire deal, and your leadership in bringing both Israel and Hamas to the negotiating table. I urge you to continue doing all that you can to pressure Prime Minister Netanyahu and the leaders of Hamas to reach a deal that ensures the return of all remaining hostages and works towards a peaceful, two-state solution which allows Palestinians to be free from the terrorist organization Hamas and where Israelis can live without fear of another October 7. As a Member of Congress, I remain committed to supporting your Administration in those efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chrissy Houlahan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chrissy Houlahan  
Member of Congress