

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 4, 2024

The Honorable Anthony J. Blinken
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C St. NW
Washington, DC 20520

The Honorable Merrick Garland
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Secretary Blinken and Attorney General Garland,

The Israel Defense Forces' killing of Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar presents a critical opportunity for the United States to compel Hamas' surrender. This would end the war that Hamas started with its brutal terrorist massacre on October 7, 2023, in which it killed nearly 1200 people, including 46 Americans, and took 250 hostages, including twelve Americans. We therefore urge you to act quickly against Hamas' remaining leadership, so that the organization is destroyed and defeated.

First, we urge you to reverse the Biden-Harris administration's policy toward the State of Qatar, whereby the administration has permitted Qatar to facilitate negotiations by hosting Hamas' leadership. Hamas' Doha-based leaders have exploited this arrangement, and used the relative freedom that Qatar has afforded them to oppose ceasefire negotiations in international media, host Iranian officials at Hamas' Doha headquarters, and travel abroad. Qatari officials have said repeatedly that they would change their policy towards Hamas if the Biden-Harris administration asked it to do so, and we believe that it is long past time the administration ask Qatar to freeze Hamas leaders' assets, shut their access to international media, end their ability to host foreign visitors, and prevent them from traveling abroad.

Second, we urge you to seek the extradition to the United States of Hamas leader Khaled Meshal, who currently resides in Qatar. The Department of Justice unsealed indictments pertaining to multiple Hamas leaders, including Mr. Meshal, on September 3, 2024¹, and he should face justice for his leadership of a terrorist group that has American blood and hostages on its hands.

Third, we urge you to seek indictments for Hamas' other senior officials abroad, foremost among them Khalil Al-Hayya, who resides in Qatar. According to *The New York Times*, during the year prior to Hamas' October 7, 2023 terrorist massacre, Mr. Al-Hayya sought Iranian and Hezbollah support for Hamas' brutal attack, with the goal of assaulting Israel on multiple fronts.² Mr. Al-Hayya should no longer be permitted to live risk-free in Doha. He should be indicted immediately for his role in killing Americans and taking Americans hostage, and then extradited to the United States to face justice.

The defeat of Hamas is within reach, and ending the safe haven that its leadership enjoys abroad is vital to defeating it. We urge you to act expediently so this Iranian-backed terrorist organization is finally held responsible for the horrific terrorist massacre of October 7, 2023 and the war that it deliberately unleashed across the region.

¹ <https://www.justice.gov/opa/media/1366141/dl>

² <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/10/12/world/middleeast/hamas-israel-war.html>

Sincerely,



Roger F. Wicker
United States Senator



James E. Risch
United States Senator



Marco Rubio
United States Senator



Tim Scott
United States Senator



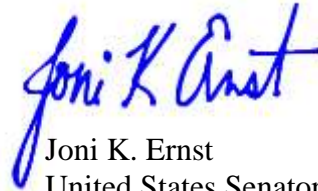
Ted Cruz
United States Senator



Deb Fischer
United States Senator



Tom Cotton
United States Senator



Joni K. Ernst
United States Senator



Dan Sullivan
United States Senator



Kevin Cramer
United States Senator



Rick Scott
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Tommy Tuberville
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Ted Budd
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Pete Ricketts
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