



New York Congressional Delegation Stands with Israel

In light of the recent escalation between Israel and Hamas, JCRC-NY solicited statements from our downstate New York Congressional Delegation condemning Hamas for its continued violence against Israel. Please see the list of statements below. The complete list can be found on the [JCRC-NY Facebook page](#).



U.S. Senator Charles Schumer (D-NY):

"Hamas is a terrorist organization that does not believe in Israel's right to exist and indiscriminately fires rockets at Israel with the intent to kill civilians. Israel, like any other sovereign country, has the right to defend herself."

U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY):

"I am deeply troubled by another escalation of violence, and the resulting civilian deaths and wounded on both sides. I have visited Sderot and the Gaza border and understand the security threat to Israeli families who live in the region and Hamas's continued violence against Israel. That is why as a member of Senate Armed Services, I will continue to ensure that Israel has the capabilities it needs to protect its people. Ultimately a lasting solution that will result in peace and security for all sides is needed, and we must work with the parties on the ground and the international community to support a long lasting peace including through both humanitarian and security measures."

Rep. Eliot L. Engel (D, NY-16):

"I strongly condemn the indiscriminate Hamas rocket attacks against Israel over the last hours, which have already injured dozens of civilians and risk the lives of thousands. Further, I support Israel's right to self-defense. No one should have to live under this threat, and no country should be asked to sit on its hands while citizens face a barrage of rockets."

"The situation in Gaza is heartbreaking, but completely avoidable if Hamas were to change its behavior. Every day that Hamas clings to power, it risks the lives of Gazans and blames Israel for Gaza's misery. The United States and governments around the world must also do more to alleviate the suffering in Gaza, including

ensuring that schools open on time at the end of the month. Otherwise, Hamas will surely zero in on this population of highly vulnerable children. We can help avoid that outcome by obligating assistance in a timely manner.”

Rep. Nita Lowey (D, NY-17):

“I strongly condemn the recent rocket attacks from Hamas on Israel. They are a sobering reminder that Israel has every right to defend itself against attacks on innocent Israeli civilians, and that the United States must continue to stand in solidarity with Israel and support its right to self-defense. The situation in Gaza is extremely concerning, and we must work alongside the international community to alleviate the humanitarian crisis in the region. Hamas is taking advantage of and hurting Palestinians and Israelis alike, and their latest attacks will only prolong the conflict.”

Rep. Jose E. Serrano (D, NY-15):

“I strongly condemn the indiscriminate rocket attacks by Hamas on Israeli civilian areas. Extremism and violence will not bring peace; it will only bring loss of life and conflict. I call on Hamas to cease all attacks.”

Rep. Jerrold Nadler (D, NY-10):

“Hamas’ indiscriminate rocket attacks targeting Israel and its civilians in recent days must be condemned loudly and without equivocation. The situation in Gaza is heartbreaking, yet no nation, with a duty to protect the safety and security of its people, can be expected to abide the repeated violence of hundreds of rockets being fired against civilians, and I fully support Israel’s right to self-defense. Violence like this brings us no closer to a future of peace or security for both Israelis and Palestinians, but only adds further tragedy to this situation.”

Rep. Carolyn B. Maloney (D, NY-12):

“Southern Israel recovering after more than 200 missiles fired at Sderot, Ashkelon and Beersheva. Iron Dome saved lives, but 23 Israelis were injured. Israel exercised its right to defend itself. Hamas’ attacks on Israel inevitably cause suffering for both Israelis & Palestinians.”

Rep. Nydia M. Velazquez (D, NY-7):

“The rocket attacks against Israel launched by Hamas must be unequivocally condemned. These violent acts against civilians are a moral affront and those living in Israel, especially in the border areas, should know the United States stands beside them.”

Rep. Grace Meng (D, NY-6):

“I denounce in the strongest terms possible the unprovoked attacks that Hamas has launched against Israeli civilians and I fully support Israel’s right to defend itself. There is no justification for Hamas’ cowardly escalation of violence. It is unacceptable and cannot be tolerated. All nations must condemn these deplorable acts of aggression. The United States stands in solidarity with our friend and ally Israel at this difficult time.”

Rep. Kathleen Rice (D, NY-4):

“I strongly condemn the recent rocket attacks by Hamas, which indiscriminately targeted innocent Israeli civilians. These attacks are a disturbing reminder of the constant threat that so many Israelis must live with every day. This violence cannot continue and I support Israel's right to protect itself and its people.”

Rep. Lee Zeldin (R, NY-1):

“ Hamas is a terrorist group that has pledged to wipe Israel off of the map, uses civilians as human shields, financially rewards people for getting themselves shot, and provokes and commits acts of violence. They have destabilized and ruined many aspects of life in Gaza and have left Israel with no choice but to protect its border with the use of lethal force. Israel has an inherent right of self-defense and will without hesitation act to protect innocent Israeli citizens who live near the border with Gaza. Like every other sovereign nation, Israel has the right to defend itself against a terrorist organization that refuses to recognize its very right to exist, and, as one of our nation’s greatest allies, we must stand shoulder to shoulder with Israel as they safeguard their innocent citizens against violence at the hands of Hamas. That is why I, along with Rep. Josh Gottheimer (D, NJ-5), recently introduced a joint resolution (H.J.Res.135) supporting Israel’s inherent right of self-defense against Hamas and others. This bipartisan resolution also condemned the violence and provocations caused by Hamas.”

Rep. Dan Donovan (R, NY-11):

“The State of Israel has the right to exist free from terror, and I strongly condemn the recent Hamas rocket attacks against our greatest ally in the Middle East. These actions threaten the safety and security of Israeli citizens and stability in the region. Our nation stands firmly with Israel in its right to self-defense against aggressors. Hamas continues to take dangerous action to derail the peace process, which has further underscored this terrorist group’s total disregard for human life. The United States remains steadfast in our commitment to supporting Israel and the unbreakable alliance our countries share.”

Rep. Adriano Espaillat (D, NY-13):

“Over the past 48 hours, Hamas has escalated its attacks against Israel, firing over 180 rockets into Israel and injuring 11 civilians,” said Rep. Adriano Espaillat (NY-13). “Hamas, which controls the Gaza Strip, is recognized as a terrorist organization by the United States and many of our allies. As Israel acts in self-defense like any other responsible country would do to defend its citizens, it remains critical that our nation continue to stand with Israel and Israeli civilians against threats that endanger the safety of thousands throughout their community. It is my hope that both sides can re-institute a ceasefire in order to protect civilians and for progress to be made toward a lasting political solution.”

Rep. Thomas Suozzi (D, NY-3):

“I strongly condemn Hamas’ violent attacks on Israel, which have ranged from incendiary kites to rockets. We must stand steadfast with our Israeli brothers and sisters in the fight against terrorism and extremism. Innocent people must not be subjected to indiscriminate violence. Hamas’ actions will not bring peace to the region, in fact their actions undermine the prospect of peace for all. The blockade of Gaza persists precisely because Hamas refuses to relinquish their rockets, and their abhorrent actions further prove their commitment to destroy Israel has not waned. We must stand with Israel and her right to defend herself.”



