

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 10, 2023

The Honorable Lloyd J. Austin III
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Austin,

Thank you for your commitment to our ally Israel's security and for recently announcing an enhanced Department of Defense force posture in the Middle East as a show of support for Israel. As members of the Senate Armed Services Committee, we join you in condemning the abhorrent Hamas terrorist attacks on Israel, which have killed hundreds of innocent civilians, including American citizens.

Since October 7, Hamas, which Iran directly supplies and funds, has fired thousands of rockets into populated areas across Israel with the intention of killing as many innocent civilians as possible. While we appreciate that the Department of Defense has announced that it will rapidly provide Israel with equipment and munitions, and that discussions are under way to resupply Israel with Iron Dome interceptors, we also understand that Israel may urgently require additional missile defense capacity to protect its citizens and territory, including new Iron Dome batteries. As you know, the United States Army is currently in possession of two Iron Dome batteries that have not been deployed and have no operational use inside the United States where they are currently stored. Immediately transferring these two Iron Dome batteries that are not in use to Israel would provide tangible, life-saving and sustained support to our ally as it faces rocket and missile salvos that threaten to overwhelm its defenses. We likewise implore you to provide Israel with other defensive assets that could be useful as it faces this unprecedented onslaught of terrorist violence.

The transfer of these two Iron Dome batteries, in addition to sending other unused military assets, would bolster Israel's defense capabilities and immediately help Israel combat terrorist aggression. We respectfully ask that you respond to our request by October 13 and look forward to working with you to ensure Israel has the resources and tools needed to defend itself against terrorism. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



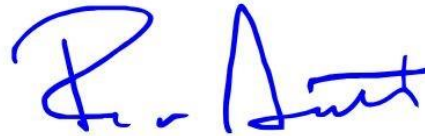
Jacky Rosen
United States Senator



M. Michael Rounds
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Rick Scott
United States Senator