

# Congress of the United States

## Washington, DC 20510

May 30, 2024

The Honorable Antony Blinken  
Secretary  
Department of State  
2201 C St., NW  
Washington, DC 20520

The Honorable Janet Yellen  
Secretary  
Department of the Treasury  
1500 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20220

Dear Secretary Blinken and Secretary Yellen:

We write to you today regarding the biased and erroneous arrest warrants the International Criminal Court (ICC) issued for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant. We are deeply outraged that the ICC would even attempt to equate democratically elected officials acting in self-defense with terrorist leaders who purposefully and heinously slaughtered innocent civilians, including more than forty Americans. Today, Hamas still holds hostages, including five Americans believed to be alive, and the bodies of three others.

The charges against Israeli leaders are baseless. They reflect the ICC's well-documented historical bias against Israel. The evidence is clear: Hamas terrorists are responsible for wreaking havoc and sowing destruction. Almost eight months ago, terrorists killed, raped, decapitated, burned, and kidnapped more than 1,200 people, including Americans. Hamas has built tunnels under hospitals, launched missiles from homes, and used civilians as human shields. This tragic conflict could end tomorrow if Hamas would put down their weapons, free the hostages, and allow more humanitarian aid into the region. Instead of working toward peaceful, just resolution, the ICC is playing politics.

If the pre-trial chamber approves the sham warrants, this will only embolden our adversaries, including the Iranian-backed proxies across the region, to continue their terrorist campaign against freedom and democracy. The ICC's message gives Hamas further cover to walk away from the table, prolonging negotiations for a pause to release the hostages, including the Americans.

Above all, these warrants are an affront to due process, a clear maneuver by a biased organization masquerading as a neutral arbiter of justice cannot go without consequences. While we applaud the Administration for its strong words opposing these warrants, action is also required. Just last week, President Biden said, "Let me be clear: whatever this prosecutor might imply, there is no equivalence — none — between Israel and Hamas."<sup>1</sup> ICC officials have in the


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<sup>1</sup>NBC News, Biden says it's 'outrageous' ICC is seeking arrest warrants for Netanyahu and Israeli leaders," May 20, 2024, <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/netanyahu-arrest-warrant-israel-hamas-war-icc-rcna149743#>

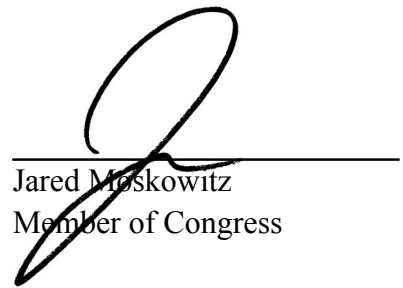
past been sanctioned after engaging in a pattern of vindictive and unnecessary investigations.<sup>2</sup> Current ICC officials must be held to the same standard. We urge the Administration to consult with Congress to immediately impose sanctions against the ICC's Chief Prosecutor Karim Khan and any other officials who have demonstrated undue bias in their actions.

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Josh Gottheimer  
Member of Congress



Jared Moskowitz  
Member of Congress



Bradley Scott Schneider  
Member of Congress



Thomas R. Suozzi  
Member of Congress



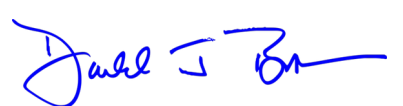
Marcus J. Molinaro  
Member of Congress



Donald Norcross  
Member of Congress

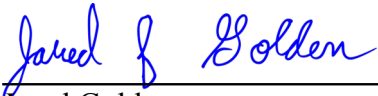


Dina Titus  
Member of Congress



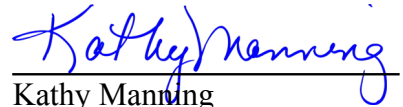
Don Bacon  
Member of Congress

<sup>2</sup> Reuters, "U.S. lifts Trump's sanctions on ICC prosecutor, court official," April 2, 2021, <https://www.reuters.com/article/idUSKBN2BP1JW/>



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Jared Golden  
Member of Congress



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Kathy Manning  
Member of Congress



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Ritchie Torres  
Member of Congress



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Darren Soto  
Member of Congress



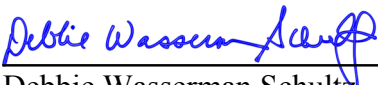
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Lois Frankel  
Member of Congress



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Susie Lee  
Member of Congress



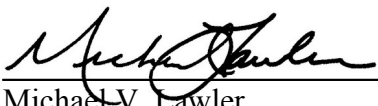
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Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Member of Congress



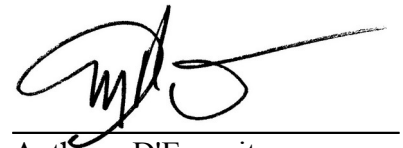
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Donald G. Davis  
Member of Congress



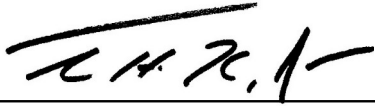
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Michael V. Lawler  
Member of Congress



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Anthony D'Esposito  
Member of Congress



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Thomas H. Kean, Jr.  
Member of Congress



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Nick LaLota  
Member of Congress



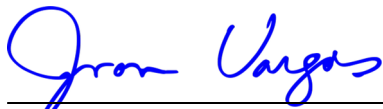
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Greg Landsman  
Member of Congress



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Vicente Gonzalez  
Member of Congress



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Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress



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Marie Gluesenkamp Perez  
Member of Congress



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Dean Phillips  
Member of Congress