

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 26, 2024

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden:

We thank you for your leadership in supporting Israel's fight against terrorism. Israel has had no better friend than the United States, and no closer ally than you and your Administration.

Yet, we write this letter to you to express our deepest concern at the omission of sexual violence committed by Hamas against innocent Israelis in the White House Fact Sheet on the Biden-Harris Administration's Actions to Address Conflict-Related Sexual Violence, released on June 17, 2024.

This Fact Sheet asserts that preventing and responding to conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) is a top priority for the Administration. It notes that Vice President Kamala Harris condemns CRSV unequivocally and has called for others in the international community to join the United States in pursuing justice and accountability for these crimes. The Fact Sheet then goes on to identify specific instances of CRSV, including the implementation of sanctions based on atrocities against women in Ukraine, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Iraq, South Sudan, Sudan, and Syria.

Clearly missing from this list of victims are the women who experienced sexual violence on October 7, 2023, as a result of the brutal attack by Hamas against Israel. There is substantial evidence that Hamas perpetrated sexual violence against Israeli women on that terrible day, as well as against the hostages they took in the ensuing days and weeks. The UN report from the Office of the Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict found that there was "reasonable grounds to believe" that Hamas committed rape, including gang rape, against women in multiple locations in Israel. In some instances, after committing these acts of sexual violence, Hamas then murdered these victims.

We deeply appreciate that Vice President Harris, in her remarks on June 17, acknowledged the atrocities that Hamas committed against Israeli women on October 7. She spoke of documentary evidence from the Nova Music Festival, where "women's bodies were found naked from the waist down, hands tied behind their back, and shot in the head." Vice President Harris even spoke of meeting with an Israeli woman who is a former hostage, as well as a survivor of sexual violence perpetrated by Hamas during her captivity.

Given the evidence of these horrific incidents, the brutal and vicious sexual violence committed by Hamas must not be omitted from the White House's Fact Sheet. The Administration and Congress must never lose sight of Hamas' sexual violence against Israel or give Hamas special dispensation in seeking accountability for its actions.

We ask that the White House immediately update its Fact Sheet to include the sexual violence committed by Hamas. We also urge your Administration to impose sanctions against individuals of Hamas connected to this CRSV. Your Administration rightly began imposing sanctions against individuals connected to CRSV in June 2023, adding additional individuals in December 2023. The Administration must sanction Hamas members by including them on the list of individuals who have connection to acts of CRSV.

We thank you again for your leadership in addressing this issue.

Sincerely,



Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress



Dan Goldman
Member of Congress