

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 22, 2025

President Donald J. Trump  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump:

**We write to express serious concerns regarding Israeli actions in Gaza that threaten the ceasefire framework, including continued bombardment against civilians, destruction of property, and insufficient delivery of humanitarian aid.**

In particular, given the longstanding relationship between the U.S. and Israel, it's imperative that we hold the Israeli government accountable for its actions. It's also vital that we hold Hamas accountable for the violent crackdown it has pursued against any potential competitors in Gaza in violation of its commitment as part of the ceasefire to step back from governing the Gaza Strip. We strongly urge your administration to exert maximum diplomatic pressure on the Israeli government, including by leveraging U.S. assistance, to ensure full compliance with the terms of the framework and an end to the continued acts of violence and destruction that undermine this fragile agreement and threaten the prospect of lasting peace in the region.

We recognize that both Hamas and Israel have committed ceasefire violations. Hamas has continued their brutal campaign in Gaza, including by reasserting control of areas of Gaza by killing civilians, and has killed three Israeli soldiers. However, we are deeply concerned that the Israeli response to violations by Hamas have been severe and disproportionate, resulting in massive loss of life. In fact, since the start of the current ceasefire agreement on October 10, 2025, at least 401 Palestinians have been killed and more than 1,100 have been injured by Israeli attacks.<sup>1</sup> On just two days alone, October 19 and 29, Israel killed a total of 154 people, including more than 50 children, in response to clashes in Rafah that killed three Israeli soldiers.<sup>2</sup> On November 29, the Israeli military killed two brothers, aged 8 and 10, in a drone strike after they crossed into an Israel-controlled area of Gaza, referring to the children as "suspects" in a statement that failed to acknowledge they were children.<sup>3</sup> The total death toll from the war in Gaza has now surpassed 70,000, including over 20,000 children.<sup>4</sup>

Importantly, phase one of your 20-point peace plan states "all military operations, including aerial and artillery bombardment, will be suspended."<sup>5</sup> However, reporting indicates that Israel has violated the ceasefire agreement more than 700 times, including through attacks by air, artillery, and direct shootings.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/11/11/how-many-times-has-israel-violated-the-gaza-ceasefire-here-are-the-numbers#:~:text=the%20Gaza%20ceasefire?-,Here%20are%20the%20numbers,the%20ceasefire%20violations%20to%20date>

<sup>2</sup> *ibid*

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/11/29/world/middleeast/israeli-forces-gaza-children-attack.html>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c8e97kl240lo>

<sup>5</sup> <https://x.com/WhiteHouse/status/1972736025597219278>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/trump-says-us-will-investigate-israels-assassination-senior-hamas-official-ceasefire-violation>

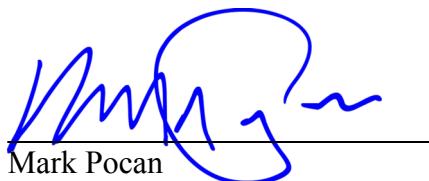
Additionally, since the beginning of the ceasefire Israeli forces have reportedly destroyed more than 1,500 buildings, many of which did not appear to be damaged prior to being destroyed.<sup>7</sup> According to the BBC, satellite images show that various areas in territory currently under Israeli control have been completely destroyed. These include homes, entire neighborhoods, gardens, and small orchards. While the Israeli government has claimed that these actions are necessary to remove terror infrastructure, we are not aware they have provided any evidence to back up this claim. These actions raise significant concerns that Israel could be acting in violation of international humanitarian law which prohibits the destruction of civilian property unless absolutely necessary for military operations.<sup>8</sup>

We also are gravely concerned that the Israeli government is not allowing sufficient levels of humanitarian aid to enter Gaza. The ceasefire agreement calls for 600 trucks per day to enter Gaza, but recent reports indicate that far fewer trucks are actually getting through. According to the UNRWA Deputy Commissioner General, only about half of the 600 daily truckloads were entering Gaza.<sup>9</sup> The World Food Programme has also stated that only about half of the required food aid is currently reaching Gazans, and other Palestinian relief agencies contend that they are receiving only about a quarter to a third of the agreed upon aid.<sup>10</sup> Aid truck drivers have also reported significant delays at inspection points.<sup>8</sup> Israel also continues to impose restrictions on items considered “dual use” such as tent poles, banning or severely restricting their entry.<sup>11</sup> In addition, Israel has still not reopened the Rafah crossing for humanitarian aid, and no plans to do so have been reported.<sup>12</sup> Insufficient and delayed aid deliveries will only exacerbate an already desperate humanitarian situation in Gaza where civilians are still facing severe malnutrition and starvation, the rampant spread of disease, and lack of access to healthcare, clean drinking water, sanitation, and shelter.


Mr. President, this ceasefire agreement is supposed to represent an opportunity for permanent, lasting peace in the region. While the agreement is not perfect, and the proposed peace plan faces many obstacles, we are hopeful that this moment is one that can be met with the conviction needed to end the cycle of bloodshed that has plagued the region for so long.

Unfortunately, the near daily violations of the ceasefire threaten to plunge the region back into full-scale war. It is imperative that your administration exerts maximum diplomatic pressure on the Israeli government, including by leveraging U.S. assistance, to bring an end to the near-daily attacks on civilians, including children, destruction of civilian property, and insufficient delivery of desperately needed humanitarian aid.

Sincerely,



Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress



Madeleine Dean  
Member of Congress

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c0mxylxw48yo>

<sup>8</sup> <https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/en/customary-ihl/v1/rule50>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/nov/15/israel-breaching-international-law-by-limiting-gaza-aid-says-unrwa-official>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.timesofisrael.com/not-enough-tents-food-reaching-gaza-as-winter-comes-aid-agencies-say/>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c20p3x7vr34o>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cpwk7xen544o>



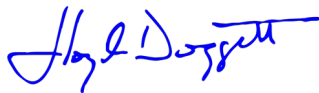
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Maxine Waters  
Member of Congress



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Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress



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Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress



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Andrea Salinas  
Member of Congress



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Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress



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James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



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Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress



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Val Hoyle  
Member of Congress



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Jim Tokuda  
Member of Congress



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Veronica Escobar  
Member of Congress



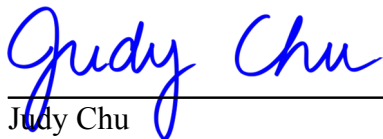
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Troy A. Carter, Sr.  
Member of Congress



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Greg Casar  
Member of Congress



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Judy Chu  
Member of Congress



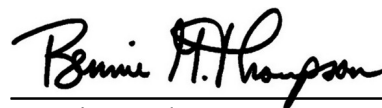
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Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress



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Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Member of Congress



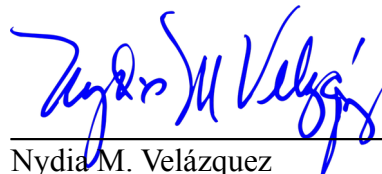
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Bennie G. Thompson  
Member of Congress



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Joaquin Castro  
Member of Congress



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Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress



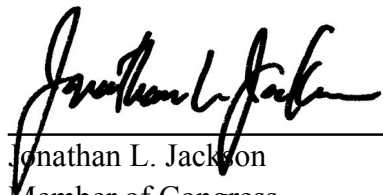
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Jasmine Crockett  
Member of Congress



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Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress



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Jonathan L. Jackson  
Member of Congress



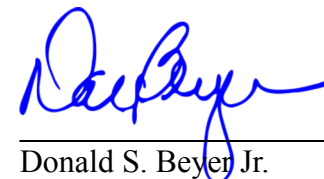
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Valerie P. Foushee  
Member of Congress



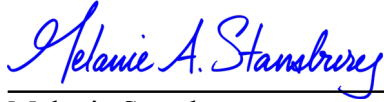
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Maxine Dexter  
Member of Congress



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Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress



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Melanie Stansbury  
Member of Congress



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Ro Khanna  
Member of Congress



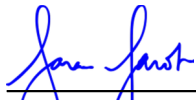
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Derek T. Tran  
Member of Congress



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Adenita S. Grijalva  
Member of Congress



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Sara Jacobs  
Member of Congress



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Andre Carson  
Member of Congress



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Paul D. Tonko  
Member of Congress



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John Garamendi  
Member of Congress



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Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress



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Rosa L. DeLauro  
Member of Congress



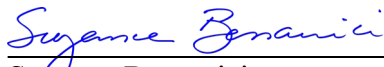
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Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



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Robin L. Kelly  
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress



Yassamin Ansari  
Member of Congress



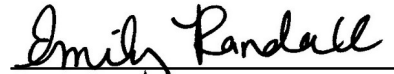
Sylvia R. Garcia  
Member of Congress



Maxwell Alejandro Frost  
Member of Congress



Nanette Diaz Barragán  
Member of Congress



Emily Randall  
Member of Congress



Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress



Jahana Hayes  
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress

Cc: Secretary of State Marco Rubio