

His Excellency Mr. Benjamin Netanyahu
Prime Minister of Israel
Office of the Prime Minister
3 Kaplan St. Hakiryia
Jerusalem, Israel
91950

January 21, 2017

Re: Apology from Ohio clergymen regarding Obama Administration betrayal

Dear Prime Minister Netanyahu,

You are a man of great valor and the welfare of your nation lays heavy on our hearts. It is our honor and privilege to send greetings to you from the state of Ohio. Even so, it is with heavy hearts that we are writing to you.....

In May of 2015, one of your patriots, Mr. Eeki Elner, shared a message at our National Day of Prayer assembly on the public square in downtown Mansfield, Ohio.¹ Mr. Elner, the son of a Holocaust survivor and now the Founder of the Israeli Leadership Institute, spoke about how his hometown of Sderot, Israel has been targeted by more than 13,000 rockets and missiles since 2001. He spoke to us about not giving up on our faith founded on the promises in the Bible.

Now after almost two years, we want to reciprocate those same heartfelt sentiments to you and your countrymen.

It bears worth noting that Ambassador Danny Danon spoke with great eloquence to the United Nations (U.N.) Security Council after the egregious passage of U.N. Resolution 2334. He waved the Bible in the air and asked "This book holds 3,000 years of Jewish history in Israel, and no one can dictate or change that fact. This decision will join the list of shameful and anti-Israel decisions made by this organization."² Suffice to say, we wholeheartedly agree.

Based on our understanding, the UN Security Council Resolution 2334, ratified one day before Hanukah, states that "the establishment of Israeli settlements in Palestinian territory occupied since 1967 have "no legal validity," and constitutes a 'flagrant violation' under international law." The Council also underlined that it will not recognize any changes to the June 4, 1967 lines, including with regard to Jerusalem.³

With that being said, as clergy representing over one hundred congregations in North-Central Ohio, we officially oppose U.N. Resolution 2334. We want to formally apologize to you, Prime Minister Netanyahu, and the citizens of Israel for the shameful actions of the Obama Administration and his State Department that have jeopardized the security of Israel and betrayed its trust.

More specifically, we sincerely ask your forgiveness for the inexcusable words by Secretary of State John Kerry suggesting that your nation of Israel cannot be both a Jewish state and a democratic state.⁴ Mr. Prime Minister, these words are extremely hateful and inaccurate considering that your nation is the only Jewish state in the world, and a Jewish state that happens to have seventeen elected Arab members in your legislative body, the Knesset.⁵

Nonetheless, we acknowledge your nation's humanitarian measures that have been taken⁶⁻¹⁰ and the value for human life your country has shown¹¹⁻¹² despite living adjacent to neighbors who denounce your existence as a people¹³⁻¹⁶ and denounce your existence as a nation.¹⁷⁻¹⁸

It is no small matter that the Obama Administration gave its approval to Iran, which calls for the extermination of Israel; ¹⁹⁻²⁰ to build nuclear reactors, ²¹ gave its pledge to defend these nuclear reactors, ²² and yet decries the building of Jewish apartment buildings inside Israel's own sovereign territory as an international crime.

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These actions of the Obama Administration do not represent the will of the governed; furthermore, this Administration has now been deposed. Most assuredly, we believe that the GOD of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob gave all the land of Canaan to Israel as an everlasting covenant just as 1 Chronicles 16:15-18 states; with Jerusalem as its eternal undivided capital.

In closing, please be reminded Prime Minister Netanyahu, even though nations conspire against Israel, these people plot in vain. Even though the kings of the earth band together against you and your country, the One enthroned in the heavens laughs. He will make the nations your inheritance; He will be your salvation.²³⁻²⁹

Since our destinies are intertwined together, you will always have friends in Ohio. What affects your country affects our country.³⁰ Beyond a shadow of a doubt, your GOD and His people are fighting and praying for you.

With highest regards,

Benjamin Mutti
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and one hundred and three (103) North Central Ohio Clergy from the counties of Richland, Ashland, Crawford, Morrow, and Huron:

Rabbi William Halbrook, Sar Shalom Messianic
Pastor Jerry Lauder milk, Abundant Life
Pastor De Wayne Smith, Main St. United Methodist
Pastor Randy Raynes, Fellowship Baptist
Pastor James Strieb, Fusion Ministries
Pastor Patrick Bailey, North Bend Church of Brethren
Pastor Bruce Philippi, Journey Life Center
Pastor Mike Workman, Caeserea Baptist
Pastor Les Vnasdale, Cornerstone Grace Brethren
Pastor Robert O'Brien, Apostolic Faith Assembly
Pastor Ted Howard, Apostolic Holiness
Pastor James Spencer, Peoples' Baptist
Pastor Larry Hulver, New Liberty Baptist
Pastor William Crank, Cornerstone Freewill Baptist
Pastors Les-Grace Farley, My Father's House
Pastor James Marshall, Ganges Community
Pastor Sylvester Ginn, Hased Agape
Pastor Steve Baldrige, Rome Community
Pastor Don Wilson, Mansfield Faith Assembly
Pastor Dallas Waggle, Lucas Foursquare Gospel
Pastor Brian Phillips, Stiving Road Freewill Baptist
Pastor Art Kennard, Maranatha Christian Center
Pastor Bill Lewis, Butler River of Life
Pastor Matthew Pond, Shelby First Freewill Baptist
Pastor Kevin Evans, Shiloh Liberty Baptist
Pastor Mark Dettmer, Pleasant Grove Community
Pastor Henry Bradley, New Community Temple COG
Pastor Mark Bailey, Mansfield Freewill Baptist
Pastor Bill Howell, Shiloh Messiah House of Prayer
Pastor George Johnson, Shelby First Church of GOD
Pastor Larry Hill, Bethel Freewill Baptist
Pastor William Henderson, Bellville First Baptist
Pastor Glenn Phillips, Hillside First Church of GOD
Pastor Willie Mack, Phillipian Community
Bishop Anthony Cooper, Shelby Life Church
Pastor Robert Kurtz, Mansfield Baptist Temple
Pastor Keith Carlisle, Ontario First Wesleyan
Pastor George Mays, Living Stone Community

Pastor David Guild, Mansfield Foursquare Gospel
Pastor Jack Hackworth, Cook Road Baptist
Pastor Doug Tackett, Taylortown Community
Pastor Dave Ferrell, Mansfield Holiness Chapel
Pastor Steve Schag, Shelby Calvary Baptist
Pastor Russell Stanford, All Believers in Christ
Pastor Dennis Nezrick, Grace Evangelical Free
Pastor Ron Puff, Pleasant Valley Baptist
Pastor Dink Porter, First Church of the Open Bible
Pastor Ronnie Conn, Elm Street Freewill Baptist
Pastor Marvin Wireman, Shiloh Pentecostal COG
Pastor Walter Keib, Shelby First Baptist
Pastor Michael Stine, Clear Fork Alliance
Pastor John Campos, Bowman Street Church of GOD
Pastor Darrin Thurber, Mansfield Seventh Day Adventist
Pastor Joe Smith, Ontario Westside Baptist
Pastor Hank Webb, Belmont Community
Pastor Mark Lee, Father's Garden Community
Pastor Bruce Copley, Faith Chapel
Pastor William Jordan, Faith Temple COGIC
Pastor Rich Hurles, Plymouth Life Point Community
Pastor Jeff Gray, Ontario First Church of GOD
Pastor Eric Byrom, Mansfield Grace Fellowship
Pastor Troy Wooten, Christian Life Center
Pastor Jody Odoni, Ambassadors for Christ
Pastor Ferlie Yates, Hanna Road Church of GOD
Pastor Walt Jordan, Mansfield Oasis of Love
Pastor Paul Staton, Bellville Freewill Baptist
Pastor Paul Larsen, First English Lutheran
Pastor Rick Lewis, Shelby Church of GOD
Pastor Lester Champer, Shelby Church of the Nazarene
Pastor Ken Kimes, Eagles on the Mount Christian Ctr.
Pastor Ben Gregg, Plymouth Church of GOD
Pastor Michael Sweeney, Impact Worship Ctr.
Pastor Chris Thomas, Diamond Hills Baptist
Pastor Caesar Coney, Christ Temple COGIC
Pastor Clarence Sanderfer, New Life Baptist
Pastor David Howell, Power House Worship Ctr.

Pastor James Hill, Paradise Freewill Baptist
Bishop William Morris Jr., Shiloh Full Gospel Baptist
Pastor Jeff Mills, Living Stone Community
Pastor Phil Green, Real Life Community
Pastor Clinton Hearn, Mount Hermon Missionary Baptist
Pastor John Grimm, Shiloh United Methodist
Pastor Tim Davis, Newville Church
Pastor John Bouquet, Bethel Baptist
Pastor Mark Abel, Southview Grace Brethren
Pastor Jake Heskett, Nankin Community
Pastor George Swain, Homerville Grace Brethren
Pastor Tommy Theisen, Cross Connect Church
Pastor Paul Tracy, Ashland Lighthouse Pentecostal
Pastor Dan Allen, Ashland Grace Brethren

Pastor Louis Blevins, Latter Rain COGIC
Pastor Tom Zuercher, Ashland Dickey Church of Brethren
Pastor Joe Maggelet, Ashland Fellowship Christian Athletes
Pastor Ben Roby, Heritage Baptist
Pastor Randy-Mickie Miller, Ashland Bethel
Pastor J.C. Church, Victory in Truth Ministries
Pastor Tom Gruver, Woodlawn United Methodist
Rabbi Robert Bauer, Beit El Elyon Messianic
Pastor David Mahon, Apostolic Assembly of Galion
Pastor Ron-Darla Ellyson Ohio House Church (Cardington)
Pastor David Bates, Unity Freewill Baptist
Pastor Rob Ratcliff, North Woodbury Freewill Baptist
Sr. Leader Rob Duncan Norwalk Church of the King

Cc: U.S. Senator Rob Portman, Ohio
U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown, Ohio
U.S. Senator Ted Cruz, Texas
Congressman Pat Tiberi, Ohio, 12th District
Congressman Bob Gibbs, Ohio, 7th District
Congressman Mark Meadows, House Freedom Caucus Chairman
Congressman Eliot Engel, House Israel Allies Caucus Co-Chairman
Congressman Trent Franks, House Israel Allies Caucus Co-Chairman

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