

The Honorable Ambassador Michael Herzog
U.S. Embassy Jerusalem
Agron Street 18
Jerusalem 9419003
JerusalemACS@state.gov

Sent via email and thru Israeli Citizen Eeki Elnor September 26, 2024

Greetings and salutations Honorable Ambassador Herzog,

As one hundred-fifteen (115) faith leaders from Ohio, we would like to thank you for your ongoing efforts in maintaining diplomatic ties between the American and Israeli governments. We are having one of your faith-based ambassadors, Mr. Eeki Elnor, send this correspondence to you after he returns from his Ontario, Ohio visit. While diplomatic ties at the national level are unsettled and federal support of Israel tenuous, due to the efforts of Mr. Elnor, we confidently report ties between the Ohio faith community and Israel remains unshakeable and support for the Jewish State robust.

Mr. Ambassador, we mourn with you over the tragic loss of the six Israeli hostages who were recently murdered in cold blood by Hamas. Our prayers go to their families and loved ones. We regret that the Jewish people are vilified for the alleged "crime" of living in their own ancestral homeland. **Not only has your country's Biblical right to exist been attacked, our shared Judeo-Christian morals have also been ambushed.**

One month following the October 7th massacre, over one hundred-fifty lead clergy from across twenty Ohio counties raised money for Jewish terror victims, prayed for the safe release of the Israeli hostages, and declared the surprise attack on innocent Israeli civilians "an act of genocide." The faith leaders also stated the Nation of Israel was within its right as a sovereign nation to defend its Jewish and Arab citizens by eliminating its enemies. (1) While Israel did not start this war or want this war, we believe Israel should hold Hamas, Hezbollah, and other jihadists in the region accountable.

With that being said, after concluding war on the western front, and now beginning preparations for war on the northern front, it could be easy for your Nation of Israel to lose hope.

Mr. Ambassador, with fifty-two Muslim states and twenty-two Arab states encircling the only Jewish state the size of New Jersey, it would be easy to think your country is outnumbered. With constant rocket barrages from Hamas and Hezbollah, with missile attacks by the Houthis, with calls for extermination by the Iranian Ayatollahs, with U.N. resolutions calling for Israel's eviction from your Biblical homeland, and last but not least, with threats by the Biden Administration to embargo military aid, (2) it would be easy for your nation to think you are outgunned. But as faith leaders, we want to assure you that "there are more with you than with them," (2 Chronicles 32)

Just as King Hezekiah made prayers on behalf of the Jewish people, and the Assyrian King Sennacherib made threats against the Jewish people and surrounded Jerusalem with his army, Scriptures tell us an angel of the LORD delivered Jerusalem and struck 185,000 Assyrian soldiers dead in one night. (2 Kings 19).

It is no coincidence a recent archaeological discovery was unearthed verifying this epic Biblical account. In June 2024, ruins with the ancient Arabic name "Khirbet al Mudawwara" were investigated by using modern mapping techniques to identify the remains of the ancient Assyrian military camp from 700 B.C. As a result, archeologists have now connected Ammunition Hill with Sennacherib's Jerusalem military camp. (3) Isaiah 37 and 2 Chronicles 32 also mention this amazing account of GOD striking the 185,000 Assyrians dead, demonstrating that the Biblical Scriptures are authentic, true, and accurate.

Prior to the miraculous defeat of the Assyrian troops, 2 Chronicles 32 records, "And Hezekiah set captains of war over the people, and gathered them together to him in the street of the gate of the Jerusalem, and spake comfortably to them, saying, 'Be strong and courageous, be not afraid nor dismayed for the King of Assyria, nor

for all the multitude that is with him: for there be more with us than with him: With him is an arm of flesh; but with us is the Lord our GOD to help us, and to fight our battles...”

In closing, our state’s slogan is ‘Ohio: the heart of it all.’ As lead clergymen representing one hundred-fifteen (115) Ohio congregations across twenty (20) counties, our heart collectively beats for the State of Israel, which is the apple of GOD’s eye. Ambassador Herzog, no matter how massive the army was that encamped around Israel, against all odds the Jewish State survived. This Biblical account from 700 B.C. of the failed Assyrian siege of Jerusalem is a vivid reminder that the Bible is true and accurate. Rest assured, no matter who occupies the Oval Office, always remember the Ohio faith community stands with the Jewish State and her right to the Biblical Promise Land. At your convenience, please disseminate this letter to journalists in your country.

The following (115) congregations have lead clergy as cosigners of this correspondence to the Ambassador:

Pastor Robert O’Brian, Apostolic Faith Assembly
Pastor Les Vnasdale, Cornerstone Grace Brethren
Pastor Duane Hennen, Restoration Bible Church
Pastor Patrick Bailey, North Bend Brethren Church
Pastor Patrick Bailey, Danville Brethren Church
Dr. DeWayne Smith, Newton Falls Global Methodist
Pastor Russell Stanford, All Believers in Christ
Pastor Doug Tackett, Taylortown Community
Pastor John Temple, Loudonville Trinity Church
Pastor Dallas Waggle, Lucas Foursquare Church
Pastor Matt Pond, Shelby First Freewill Baptist
Pastor Walter Moss, Canton Foursquare Church
Bishop J.C. Church, Victory in Truth Ministries
Pastor Ben Gregg, Plymouth Church of GOD
Pastor David Koehler, Loudonville Temple Baptist
Pastor Hank Webb, Belmont Community Church
Pastor John Campos, Bowman St. Church of GOD
Rabbi Bob Bauer, Crestline Beit El Elyon Congregation
Pastor Rob Ratcliff, North Woodbury Freewill
Pastors Joe & Amanda Nichols, ARC Empowerment Ctr.
Pastor Robert Caw, Newark Church Triumphant
Pastor Denny Nezrick, Lexington Presbyterian
Pastor William Cole, Mansfield Recovery Church
Pastor Matt Potosky, Albion Brethren Church
Pastor LaMont Lindsay, Book of Life Church
Pastor Brian Phillips, New Beginnings Freewill
Pastor Troy Thompson, Church on the North Coast
Pastors Les & Grace Farley, Lexington Irresistible Church
Pastor James Marshall, Ganges Community Church
Pastor Eric Steward, Lucas Mount Zion Lutheran
Pastor Ferlie Yates, Hanna Road Church of GOD
Pastor David Parsons, Mansfield Zion’s Refuge Baptist
Pastor Ashton Knowles, Abundant Grace Fellowship
Pastor John Bouquet, Savannah Bethel Chapel
Rabbi William Hallbrook, Ontario Sar Shalom Center
Pastor David Guild, Mansfield Foursquare Church
Pastor Juan Rivera, Lowellville Victory Church
Rabbi Michael Wolf, Warren Beth Messiah
Pastor Faron Cole, Eastern Road Church of GOD
Pastor Dana Gammill, Cathedral of Life Church

Dr. Ricky Branham, Willard Ripley Chapel
Pastor George Lewis, Shelby Temple of GOD
Pastor Paul Lintern, Oakland Lutheran
Pastor Paul Lintern, Southside Christian
Dr. DeWayne Smith, Pricetown Global Methodist
Pastor Dave Rentzel, Shelby Kingdom Life
Pastor Layton Broome, Hayesville United Methodist
Pastor Layton Broome, Lakefork United Methodist
Pastor Steve Baldrige, Rome Community
Pastor Dan Barker, Cortland Trinity Baptist
Pastor Mike Rose, Hope on the Hill Chapel
Pastor Mark Wireman, Shiloh Pentecostal
Pastor Steve Breneman, Awakening Church
Pastor Dink Porter, Mansfield Open Bible
Pastor Hank Webb, Belmont 96 Church
Pastor Mark Dettmer, Pleasant Grove Church
Pastor Ken Ginter Jr, Ontario Abundant Life
Pastor Brad Gentile, Shelby First Baptist
Pastor David Bates, Galion Unity Freewill
Pastor Art Kennard, Maranatha Christian Ctr
Pastor David Howell, Powerhouse Worship
Pastor Rick Lewis, Shelby Connect Church
Pastor Joe Silvestri, Wooster Bible Church
Pastor Bruce Philippi, Journey Life Center
Pastor Larry Hill, Bethel Freewill Baptist
Pastor Matt Merendino, Clear Fork Alliance
Bishop Sylvester Ginn, Hesed Agape Fellowship
Pastor Eric Byrom, Mansfield Grace Fellowship
Pastor Michael Constantino, Girard New Life
Pastor Rick Wiseman, Promised Land Fellowship
Pastor Clyde Kerby, Hope & Healing Ministries
Dr. Jeff Mills, Mifflin Little Flock Fellowship
Pastor Christopher Spencer, Crestline Grace Baptist
Pastor John Grimm, Plymouth United Methodist
Pastor Danny Akers, Galion Victory Rock Church
Pastor Tim Sheets, Middletown Oasis Church
Pastor Berry Carter, Massillon City Bible Church
Pastor Miler Montoya, Kingdom Vision Church
Pastor Aaron Rose, Madison Fusion Church
Pastor Clarence Sanderfer, New Life Baptist

Pastor Bill Fox, Crestline Faith Community
Pastor Aaron Boggs, Fredericktown Freewill Baptist
Pastor Bobby Edwards, Jesus is Alive Holiness Church
Pastor Ed Colegrove, Edison Enterprise Baptist
Pastor Lucian Baker, Christ the King Community Church
Pastor Steve Burkhalter, Ontario Potter's House
Reverend El Akuchie, Godsfield House of Prayer
Pastor Jack Williams, Walker Lake Baptist
Pastor Jeremy Huff, Mansfield Church of Jesus Christ
Pastor Louis Blevins, Latter Rain Church of GOD in Christ
Pastor Kevin Evans, Ganges New Liberty Lifesong
Pastor Dan Zediker, Mansfield Mission Point Church
Pastor Jeremy Rands, Monclova Baptist
Pastor Jerry O'Brien, Orville Faith Harvest
Pastor Ron Merritt, Wayne New Hope Christian
Rabbi Michael Humphery, Rosh Pinah Congregation
Pastor Jim Johnson, Mansfield Grace Temple
Pastor Richard Diamond & Julia Hardin, Diamond Hills Cathedral/BibleWalk

Pastor David Mahon, Galion Apostolic Assembly
Pastor Joe Maggelet, Ashland Christian Fellowship
Pastor Nickolas Kelly, North Liberty Church
Pastor Robert Kurtz, Mansfield Temple Baptist
Pastor Rick Sutter, Elm Street Freewill Baptist
Pastor Russ Smith, Shiloh Wesleyan Evangelical
Pastor Jake Keister, Mansfield Church of GOD
Pastor James Hill, Mansfield Paradise Church
Pastor Chad Berry, Lexington New Liberty Baptist
Pastor John Grimm, Greenwich United Methodist
Pastor David Natale, Church at Warren
Pastor Matt Smith, Crestline Love Action Church
Pastor Jason Price, Mansfield Victory Baptist
Pastor Randy Raynes, Mansfield Fellowship Baptist
Pastor Mark Galambos, Chagrin Falls River of Life
Pastor Terry Robinson, Wake Up World Ministries
Pastor Gary Click, Fremont Baptist Temple

The above listed clergy co-signers have congregations located in twenty (20) counties throughout Ohio. Counties with the most congregations represented: Richland (63), Crawford (8), Ashland (7), Trumbull (6), Morrow (5), Knox (4), Wayne (4), Huron (3), Stark (3), Warren (2), Franklin (1), Licking (1), Logan (1), Lorain (1), Lucas (1), Mahoning (1) Portage (1), Sandusky (1), Summit (1), & Wood (1).

References:

- 1 "155 Ohio clergymen stand with Israel & condemn Hamas: "Oct. 7th attack act of genocide" (VIDEO)(SLIDESHOW)," by Admin, Frontlines Ohio, November 17, 2023, <https://frontlinesohio.com/index.php/2023/11/17/155-ohio-clergymen-stand-with-israel-condemn-hamas-oct-7th-attack-act-of-genocide-videoslideshow/>
- 2 "Biden says he will stop sending bombs and artillery shells to Israel if it launches major invasion of Rafah," by Kevin Liptak, CNN News, May 9, 2024, <https://www.cnn.com/2024/05/08/politics/joe-biden-interview-cnntv/index.html>
- 3 "Newly found Assyrian camp supports epic biblical account, expert says," by Sarah Rumpf-Whitten, FOX News Digital, June 21, 2024, <https://www.foxnews.com/world/newly-found-assyrian-camp-supports-epic-biblical-account-expert-says>