

President Joe Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden,

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to upholding democracy and for your considerable efforts to deter Prime Minister Netanyahu from proceeding with the judicial overhaul in Israel. Your expressions of concern for Israel's democracy and your frank criticisms of the Israeli government's campaign to weaken the country's judiciary has helped buoy the popular opposition to this alarming democratic backsliding.

Sadly, we must acknowledge that warnings from the United States did not ultimately prevent the Israeli government from acting on this agenda. As a result, we now find ourselves at a critical juncture where further actions are necessary to safeguard the democratic values the US -Israel relationship is founded upon.

As American Jewish leaders who care deeply about Israel and wish to see it fulfilling its founding values of democracy, freedom, justice, and peace, we share your sentiment of deep concern for Israel's future.

While deeply appreciative of your public expressions of concern, we are urging you to go beyond words and to take decisive action to demonstrate the seriousness of the situation.

Mr. President, the current Israeli government's campaign is so severe and so consequential that it merits a proportionate reaction by Israel's chief ally, the United States of America.

Therefore, we believe that the time has come to take concrete action to send a clear message to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government. Going beyond words will make clear to Netanyahu's government that its actions come with a price. Where there are fewer shared values, the special relationship becomes less special.

It is not our intention to advocate for punitive measures against Israel, neither the state nor the people. Most Israelis oppose their government's anti-democratic campaign. Hundreds of thousands of them have been protesting the government's insistence on weakening the Supreme Court, which works to guarantee basic rights and liberties of all Israelis. These patriots deserve praise, not punishment.

While Netanyahu's government seems oblivious to domestic protest, it justifiably cares about Israel's relationship with Washington. This relationship is Israel's chief strategic asset.

To protect Israel's future and its relationship with the United States, we urge you to consider several concrete measures that your administration could take including but not limited to:

- Appointing a new Ambassador to Israel immediately, as the gravity of this crisis requires the highest levels of diplomacy
- Taking steps to reopen a separate US consulate in Jerusalem which would serve the Palestinian population in the West Bank and Gaza
- Reissuing the US customs guidance on settlement labeling to accurately reflect the distinction between Israel and the West Bank settlements, aligning with longstanding US policy
- No longer automatically preventing efforts to hold Israel accountable at the United Nations for its settlement activities and human rights violations against Palestinians
- Ensuring that Israel meets all requirements, including reciprocal treatment for all American citizens, before considering its admission into the Visa Waiver Program
- Communicating to the Israeli government that the evolving state of Israel's democracy will figure into the deliberations for the upcoming ten-year MOU between the US and Israel
- Taking efforts to elevate the Palestinian diplomatic mission in the US and foster meaningful engagement with Palestinian diplomats in the US

We firmly believe that taking these specific actions will underscore the United States' commitment to democratic values, human rights, and peace in the region. By leveraging the US-Israel special relationship, we can encourage Israel's government to reevaluate its current trajectory and uphold the founding values of democracy, freedom, justice, and peace.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter, and we stand ready to support any efforts to preserve Israel's democracy and safeguard its future.

Sincerely,

Hadar Susskind	Alex Soros	Randi Weingarten
James Klutznick	Daniel Sokatch	Debra Katz
Rabbi Jill Jacobs	Rabbi Rachel Tiven	Nancy Kaufman
Ambassador Alan Solomont	Ayelet Waldman	Rabbi Sharon Kleinbaum
Retired Congressman Alan Lowenthal	Michael Walzer	Rabbi Noa Kushner
Joshua Malina	Lisa Greer	Rabbi Amichai Lau-Lavie
Mandy Patinkin	Michael Chabon	Peter Weiss
William Singer	Rabbi Sharon Brous	Edward Witten
Marilyn Katz	Letty Cottin Pogrebin	Dr. Carol Winograd
	Peter Frey	

David Birenbaum	Rabbi Jennie Rosenn	Elaine Reuben
Ernest Bogen	Rabbi Nancy Kreimer	Cantor Sam Rosen
Martin Bresler	Rabbi Jose Rolando Matalon	Rabbi Laurence Edwards
Debra DeLee	Rabbi Michael Knopf	Daniel Kohl
Dan Fleshler	Jessica Brown	Rabbi Doug Alpert
Aviva Futorian	Rabbi Laura Geller	Professor Paul Scham
Larry Gellman	Rabbi Guy Austrian	Rabbi Eric Solomon
Gili Getz	Talia Benamy	Ann Toback
Rabbi Steve Gutow	Elana Kahn	Rabbi Janie Hodgetts
Steven Kaplan	Rabbi Nancy Wiener	Marci Gerston
Luis Lainer	Rabbi Fred Scherlinder Dobb	Rabbi Danya Ruttenberg
Libby Lenkinski	Ori Nir	Sanford Weiner
Mik Moore	Rabbi Megan Doherty	Dov Waxman
Jo Ann Mort	Ron Skolnik	Mark Zivin
Kathleen Peratis	Rabbi Bob Gluck	Rabbi Gerald Serotta
Marcie Setlow	Rabbi Laura Rumpf	Rabbi Sarah Bracha Gershuny
Mark Silverberg	Rabbi Rachel Timoner	Judd Miner
Judith Tuller	Rabbi Michelle Dardashti	Rabbi Ellen Lippmann
Rabbi Joshua Chasan	Rabbi Mira Rivera	Rabbi Nadya Gross
Aliza Mazor	Joe Goldman	Daniel Bral
Rabbi Suzanne Singer	Rabbi Felicia Sol	Rabbi Lynne Goldsmith
Rabbi Nate DeGroot	Rabbi Katy Allen	Rabbi Benjamin Ross
Rabbi Matthew Durbin	Toby Rubin	Rabbi David Shneyer
Rabbi Ora Weiss		Richard M. Goldwasser

Rabbi Edward Bernstein	Melissa Balaban	Rabbi David Lazar
Rabbi Charna Rosenholtz	Rachel Lerner	Dr. Terry Winograd
Rabbi Susan Goldberg	Rabbah Dorothy Richman	Sidney Hollander
Rabbi Lev Meirowitz Nelson	Madeleine Cereghino	Rabbi Phyllis Berman
Rabbi Marc Soloway	Rabbi Marisa James	Sara Litt
Rabbi Becky Silverstein	Rabbi Drorah Setel	Rabbi Jim Morgan
Rabbi Daniel Zemel	Rabbi Alana Suskin	Dr. Rabbi Aryeh Cohen
Gen Slosberg	Rabbi Daniel Kirzane	Rabbi Barbara Penzner
Benjamin Linder	Rabbi Nancy Kasten	Naama Haviv
Rabbi Michael Lezak	Karen Paul	Professor Marilyn Sneiderman
Idit Klein	Rabbi Annie Lewis	Rabbi Eva Sax-Bolder
Jonathan Kopp	Rachel Faulkner	Dr. Howard Sumka
Rabbi Elyse Wechterman	Rabbi Johnathan Slater	Frank Hornstein
Josh Protas	Tamar Renaud	Claude Stern
Rabbi Robin Podolsky	Rabbi David Teutsch	Rabbi Lew Weiss
Rabbi Deborah Bronstein	Rabbi Matthew Dreffin	Ada Horwich
Cantor/Chaplain Michael Zoosman	Rabbi Laurie Franklin	Rabbi Douglas Krantz
Rabbi Joseph Wolf	Kay Berkson	Rabbi Deborah Waxman
Rabbi David Seidenberg	Shira Danan	Phylisa Wisdom
Aviva Meyer	Rabbi Geoffrey Claussen	
Abby Leibman	David Edelman	
Shaina Wasserman	Rabbi Michael Rothbaum	
	Alan Kligerman	