

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0606

September 5, 2002

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for writing about the violence in Israel. I appreciate you taking the time to share your thoughts.

There was a time, only a few years ago, when it appeared as if the path towards peace in the middle east was clear. The events of the last 18 months, and especially the latest round of suicide bombers and Israel's response to them, have negated that hope.

It is clear now that the Oslo Accords were not taken seriously by Yasir Arafat and his terror apparatus. A Palestinian state must be responsible for the actions of its citizens. It must handle its internal security. The current PLO leadership has shown it cannot or will not do that. Either way, how can they be seriously considered candidates for legitimate rule?

I realize that the Palestinians feel their liberties and properties are being denied - sometimes violently. I also know that the Israelis feel their actions are completely justified and completely necessary to safeguard their lives, their nation and their future. Palestinian suicide bombers are always going to force an Israeli response.

Despite this, it is the responsibility of the United States to work in whatever ways we can to facilitate a long-lasting resolution so that all peoples can find a way to live in peace in that ancient and turbulent land. The only way to ensure this is to get and keep both sides at the table - even though achieving meaningful discussions is extremely difficult in the current escalating violence spiral. I believe we should continue as a facilitator and not demand concessions from either side.

One way we can work for peace is by addressing the turbulence in the rest of the region. Saddam Hussein is offering cash bounties for the murder of Israeli citizens. Reprehensible anti-Semitism

is rife in government controlled media all over the Middle East. Other regimes foster hatred of Israel to distract their citizens from their own wretched situations.

Israel is the only democracy, the only tolerant society, and the only free press in the region. Until any of her neighbors achieve political and societal freedom, Israel will continue to be preferred by the United States.

If and when new legislation pertaining to this subject comes to the floor of the Senate in the future, I will keep your comments in mind. Thank you for taking the time to write. I look forward to hearing from you in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Wayne". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Wayne Allard
United States Senator

WA:ab