

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 18, 2025

The Honorable Marco Rubio  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20520

The Honorable Scott Bessent  
Secretary of Treasury  
U.S. Department of the Treasury  
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20220

Dear Secretary Rubio and Secretary Bessent:

We write to express our grave concern over reports that Israeli settlers (settlers) are obstructing the delivery of humanitarian aid into Gaza and engaging in violent attacks against Palestinian civilians, including U.S. citizens, in the West Bank. These actions directly undermine the United States' foreign policy interests, contribute to regional instability, and potentially constitute gross violations of human rights. We urge the Departments of State and Treasury to review these reports, conduct a speedy investigation, and if warranted, impose targeted sanctions under Executive Order 13818 on individuals found responsible.

The United Nations, humanitarian NGOs, and press outlets have documented cases in which settlers have blocked aid convoys bound for Gaza. In the West Bank, there have also been reports of settlers violently attacking Palestinian Americans, including the fatal beating of Sayfollah Musallet in Sinjil and the arson that led to the death of Khamis Ayyad in Silwad. Given the increasingly dire humanitarian conditions in Gaza and ongoing violence in the West Bank, the U.S. must do more to ensure the safe distribution of aid and promote security and stability in these areas to prevent further conflict.

Executive Order 13818, which was signed by President Trump during his first term in 2017, enacts and expands the authorities of the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act by giving the U.S. government authority to sanction foreign individuals involved in “serious human rights abuses” and “corruption.”<sup>1</sup> It has been used globally and if justified, should be applied to hold perpetrators of settler violence and the deliberate obstruction of humanitarian aid accountable.

The U.S.-Israel partnership is rooted in shared security interests and democratic values. Targeted sanctions against individuals who have engaged in violence or obstructed the delivery of humanitarian aid reinforce those values and help prevent further instability in the region.

To that end, we urge the Departments to:

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<sup>1</sup> Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. *Human Rights and Anti-Corruption Sanctions: The Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act*. Weber, Michael A., and Edward J. Collins-Chase. August 7, 2025. <https://www.congress.gov/crs-product/IF10576>.

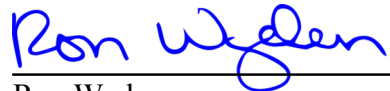
1. Conduct a full review of individuals credibly alleged to have obstructed humanitarian aid deliveries into Gaza and of those individuals engaged in violent attacks on Palestinian civilians or aid workers in the West Bank;
2. Designate such individuals for sanctions under Executive Order 13818; and
3. Coordinate with Israeli authorities to ensure accountability and prevent further disruption of humanitarian operations.

We appreciate your attention to this urgent matter and stand ready to support the Administration's efforts to ensure accountability, safeguard humanitarian operations, and strengthen U.S. leadership in the region.

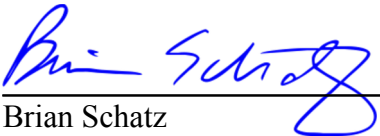
Sincerely,



Ruben Gallego  
United States Senator



Ron Wyden  
United States Senator



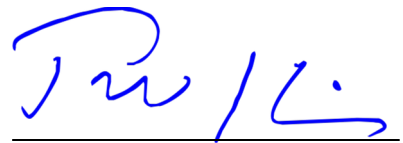
Brian Schatz  
United States Senator



Peter Welch  
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator



Tim Kaine  
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator