



NETTIE MAYERSON  
New York State Assembly  
27<sup>th</sup> District



CHARLES D. LAVINE  
New York State Assembly  
13<sup>th</sup> District



JOEL M. MILLER  
New York State Assembly  
102<sup>nd</sup> District

March 15, 2010

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

Recently, 54 members of Congress signed a letter urging you to address the humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip. The letter called on you to pressure Israel into lifting its blockade of Gaza. On the surface, it seems that the intent of the letter is to improve the quality of life for the Arabs living in the Gaza Strip; however, the underlying current is more of the same old blaming Israel for all the problems in the Middle East.

First, let us all agree that Israel has the right to defend herself. Second, let us agree that the Gaza Strip is governed by Hamas, a terrorist organization that has killed hundreds of innocent men, women and children. In fact, its Charter continues to call for the destruction of Israel and the murder of Jews. Hamas continues to perpetrate their terrorist attacks, while hiding behind the innocent residents of Gaza. The Kassam rockets that continually rain-down on Israeli villages are routinely fired from makeshift launching pads, set up on hospitals, schools or other civilian locations.


Israel not only has the right to defend herself – but is duty-bound to protect her citizens by imposing restrictions upon what goes into and out of Gaza. The signatories of the letter “...recognize that the Israeli government has imposed restrictions on Gaza out of a legitimate and keenly felt fear of continued terrorist action by Hamas and other militant groups.” However, nowhere in the letter do they suggest taking Hamas to task for their terrorist attacks. Perhaps if Hamas were to acknowledge Israel’s right to exist and suspend all terrorist attacks against her, there would be no need for a restriction on what enters Gaza.

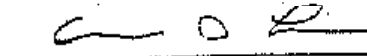
It is unfortunate that the signatories of that letter have given the anti-Israel faction in the U.N. and around the world the impression that a significant number of Congress members believe that Israel lacks compassion and is treating the civilian population in Gaza unfairly. However, it is important to point out that, on average, 450 to 500 truckloads of humanitarian aid are transferred to the Gaza Strip via the Kerem Shalom cargo terminal per week. Additionally, millions of liters of heavy-duty diesel fuel are transferred each week for the Gaza power station, as well as hundreds of tons of cooking gas. Furthermore hundreds of Gaza residents cross the border each week for medical care and other humanitarian reasons.

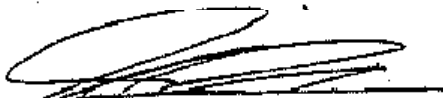
We all watched with pride the news coverage of the Israeli rescue workers and doctors working around the clock, helping the people of earthquake ravaged Haiti. In fact, whenever a natural disaster hits, no matter where in the world, Israel is among the first to offer its humanitarian assistance. To imply that Israel is anything other than compassionate and humane is preposterous.

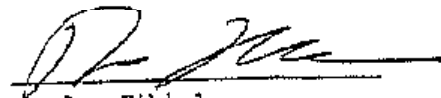
For generations, Palestinians have been persecuted and even massacred in every Arab country in which they have lived. They have never enjoyed the peace or prosperity they have in Israel. Now is not the time for the United States to pressure Israel to reduce the suffering in Gaza by endangering her own citizens. We must continue to support our only democratic ally in the region, and we must stand with her in fighting the terror that made this blockade necessary in the first place. Only then will we be able to truly "relieve suffering" in the Gaza Strip.

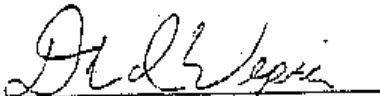
Sincerely,

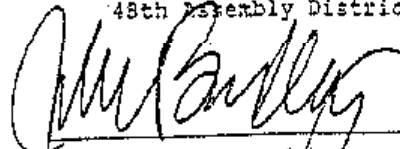
  
Nettie Meyersohn  
27<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

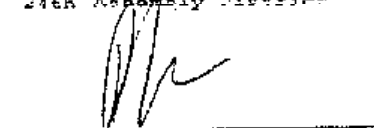
  
Charles D. Lavine  
13<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

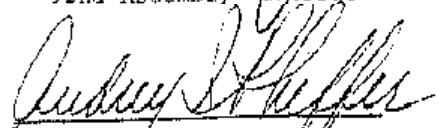
  
Joel M. Miller  
102 Assembly District


  
Dov Hikind  
48th Assembly District

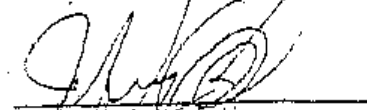
  
David I. Weprin  
24th Assembly District

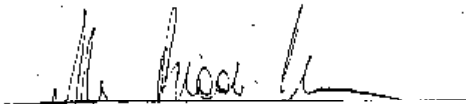
  
Richard L. Brodsky  
92nd Assembly District

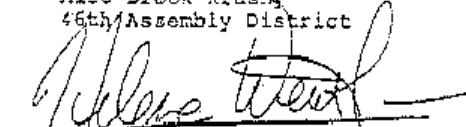
  
Perry E. Lapanon  
25th Assembly District


  
Audrey I. Sheffer  
22nd Assembly District

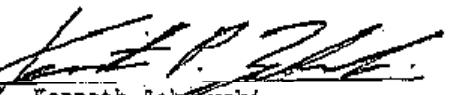
  
Steven Cymbrowicz  
48th Assembly District

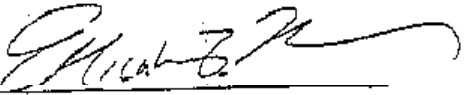
  
Jeffrey Benowitz  
21st Assembly District


  
Alec Brook-Krasny  
46th Assembly District

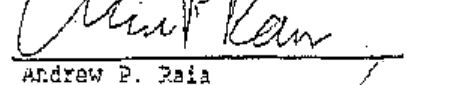
  
Helene E. Weinstein  
41st Assembly District

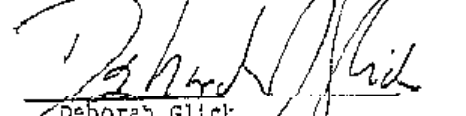
  
Rhoda S. Jacobs  
42nd Assembly District

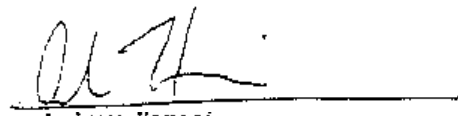
  
Kenneth Jabrowski  
94th Assembly District


  
Micah Kellner  
65th Assembly District

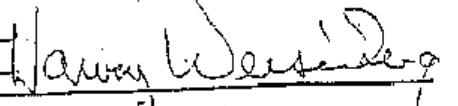
  
Alan N. Maisel  
59th Assembly District

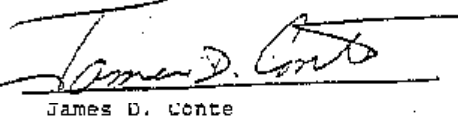
  
Andrew P. Raia  
9th Assembly District

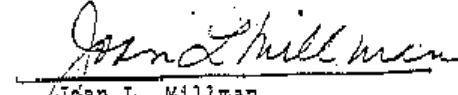
  
Deborah Glick  
66th Assembly District


  
Andrew Hevesi  
28th Assembly District

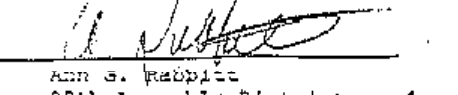
  
Ellen C. Jaffee  
95th Assembly District

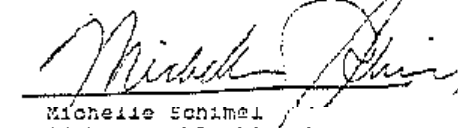
  
Harvey Weissberg  
20th Assembly District

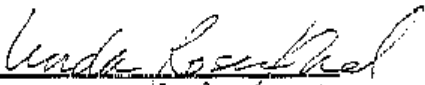
  
James D. Conte  
10th Assembly District

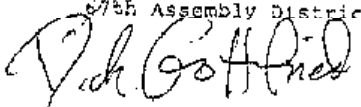
  
Joan L. Millman  
52nd Assembly District

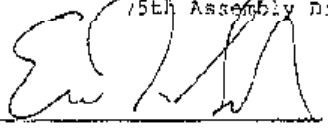
  
Amy Paulin  
88th Assembly District

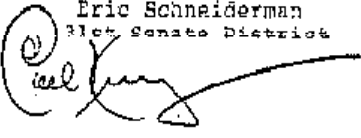
  
Ann S. Karpf  
97th Assembly District


  
Michelle Schimel  
16th Assembly District

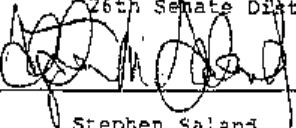
  
Linda Rosenthal  
67th Assembly District

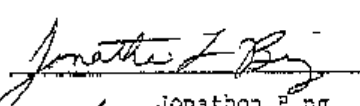
  
Richard Gottfried  
75th Assembly District

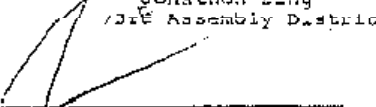
  
Eric Schneiderman  
31st Senate District

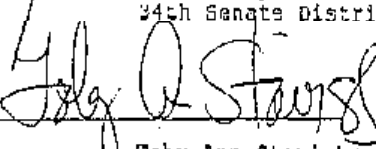
  
Carl Kruger  
27th Senate District

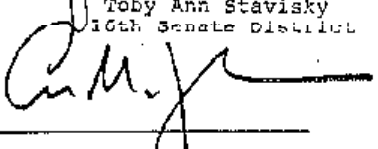
Senator  
  
Liz Kruger

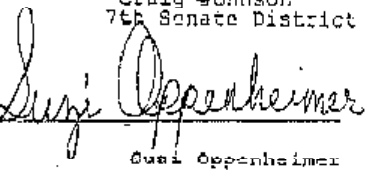
Liz Kruger  
26th Senate District  
  
Stephen Saland  
41st Senate District

  
Jonathon King  
13th Assembly District

  
Jeffrey Klein  
34th Senate District

  
Toby Ann Stavisky  
10th Senate District

  
Craig Johnson  
7th Senate District

  
Susi Oppenheimer  
37th Senate District