

Dear Senators,

I am expressing my dismay over your recent letter to Sec. Pompeo regarding the situation in Gaza. I would like to reiterate the cold, hard facts:

FACT: Hamas' modus operandi is the destruction of the State of Israel. As Hamas' leader, Ismail Haniyeh, put it on April 9: "Palestine and Jerusalem belong to us... We will break the walls of the blockade, remove the occupation entity and return to all of Palestine."

<u>FACT</u>: Hamas guides about the "peaceful border protests" included maps to Israeli communities and the following instruction: "Bring a knife, a dagger or a gun. ...keep it under your clothes...kidnap Israeli civilians and transfer them immediately to Hamas."

<u>FACT:</u> The Palestinian Authority is to blame for the lack of electricity in Gaza. The electricity that is available was hampered STARTING LAST YEAR WHEN THE PA SOUGHT TO PUT PRESSURE ON HAMAS BY REFUSING to pay Israel for the power it provides to Gaza.

<u>FACT</u>: Approximately 10,000 rockets and mortars have been launched from Gaza into Israel since Israel unilaterally withdrew from Gaza more than decade ago, including 165 rocket launches since January alone. <u>FACT</u>: The flow of humanitarian goods into Gaza from Israel is regular, with over 5,000 trucks carrying approximately 150,000 tons. This is typically only interrupted due to security threats to the Kerem Shalom crossing, such as during the recent riots when parts of the crossing were set on fire by the "peaceful" demonstrators.

<u>FACT:</u> Israel routinely finds evidence of concrete transferred from Israel in Hamas terror tunnels — BUT STILL PROVIDES THE CONCRETE TO HELP ALLEVIATE THE HOUSING SHORTAGE. In the first week of June alone, 58,225 tons of goods on 2,156 trucks entered the Gaza Strip via Israel. This included more than 36,000 tons of building materials.

<u>FACT:</u> Egypt has largely kept the Rafah crossing closed to prevent Hamas from having an open road to ISIS in the Sinai.

<u>FACT:</u> Terrorist regularly disguise themselves as civilians, including as members of the press. Hamas regularly uses ambulances to mask terrorist activities and abuse medical facilities.

<u>FACT:</u> Israel has made extensive use of radio and social media to advise Gazans not to approach the fence. After the first week of the recent riots, in which the events received widespread media coverage in Gaza, it should have been clear to anyone the dangers of approaching the fence.

<u>SIMPLE SOLUTIONS:</u> Stop shooting rockets over to Israel. Stop Hamas from intercepting aid for its terrorist purposes. Stop the PA/Hamas from destroying the electricity infrastructure of Gaza. Stop Hamas from spreading its lies and propaganda. When Israel is not under constant security threats, and even under all of this Hamas behavior, Israel extends significant humanitarian assistance to Gaza.

Senators, for you to listen to Senator Sanders and accuse Israel of being the main culprit is outrageous, misinformed, offensive and shows a lack of understanding of the region's basic fundamentals. Do your homework, unless you have chosen to blindly follow Senator Sander's ill advised, misinformed, simplistic, and ignorant lead.

Senator Sanders, if you want to opine on the region, then do your homework. And if you would like, I would have a grand old time teaching you, as there is much for you to learn.

FACTS are stubborn things and are not debatable.

I would be happy to discuss further. Feel free to email or call me at

Best.

Haim Saban