

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 25, 2014

H.E. Rafeal Correa
President of the Republic of Ecuador
Palacio de Carondelet
Quito, Ecuador

Dear Mr. President:

We are deeply disappointed by your government's decision to recall your Ambassador to Israel "in protest" against Israel's legitimate military operations to restore deterrence against rocket attacks and terrorist tunnels designed by Hamas to kill Israeli civilians.

Hamas is a terrorist organization committed to using violence as a political tool and denying Israel's right to exist. Hamas leaders have violated international law by promoting the use of civilians as human shields, and have rejected multiple cease fire offers that could save lives on both sides of this conflict. All loss of innocent lives during this conflict is tragic, but your government's decision to downgrade diplomatic relations with Israel at this critical time will only embolden Hamas leaders to continue on the current course of indiscriminate rocket attacks against Israeli civilians rather than working with the Israeli government to achieve a sustainable cease fire arrangement. Your actions send a troubling message to the United States about your government's commitment to long-lasting peace between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization.

We encourage you to return your Ambassador to Israel, as a symbol of your country's steadfast commitment to achieving an enduring peace in the Middle East and the fight against the scourge of international terrorism.

Sincerely,



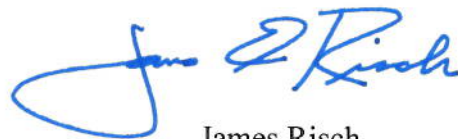
Marco Rubio
United States Senator



Robert Menendez
United States Senator



Mark Kirk
United States Senator



James Risch
United States Senator