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MODERNIZATION OF CONGRESS

Congress of the United States
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July 12, 2022

President Joe Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden,

We write today to express our concern over the reports of your proposed visit to East Jerusalem during an upcoming trip to Israel. As you know, Jerusalem is the long-recognized capital of Israel. This has been the constant stance of the United States since the Passage of the Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995, which promoted an undivided of Jerusalem.

The Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995 that you supported during your time in the U.S. Senate expressed U.S. policy that "Jerusalem should remain an undivided city in which the rights of every ethnic and religious group are protected."

A visit to East Jerusalem will reward the Palestinian Authority, which continues to support acts of terrorism including the most recent violent clashes attacks against Israeli civilians on the Temple Mount. The Palestinian Authority continues to engage in the real obstacles to peace, such as refusing to recognize Israel's right to exist as a Jewish State, supporting terrorism through incitement to violence and providing payments to terrorists and their families, encouraging discriminatory boycotts, divestments, and sanctions (BDS).

Additionally, as 168 House Republicans sent a letter in October 2021 opposing plans to reopen the U.S. Consulate General, a visit to East Jerusalem will be seen as a declaration in favor of reopening the American consulate for the Palestinian Authority, which the Trump Administration disbanded.

Palestinians see East Jerusalem as the capital of a future independent state. Israel considers the whole of Jerusalem - including the East, which it occupied in the 1967 Middle East War - as its indivisible capital.

As you know, the previous administration cut \$25 million to the East Jerusalem Hospitals Network which Al Makassed Hospital is a member of. It is our understanding during your time in East Jerusalem you may visit this hospital. A visit would be viewed as a continued sign of continued

support the Palestinians in their illegitimate efforts to claim east Jerusalem and give the perception of future funding.

Finally, we urge you to respect our close ally Israel's opposition on any visit to East Jerusalem. In keeping with precedent, no United States President has visited East Jerusalem.

Sincerely,



Beth Van Duyne
Member of Congress



Randy Weber
Member of Congress



Bill Johnson
Member of Congress



Pete Sessions
Member of Congress



Ronny Jackson
Member of Congress



W. Gregory Steube
Member of Congress