

“Time has not dulled the pain inflicted on the people of Israel one year ago today, nor eased the grief left in its wake. October 7th confronted the world with the irredeemable evil of Iran-backed terror, and drew emboldened strains of the world’s oldest hatred out of the shadows.

“The Jewish state has met a year of trial with unshakeable resolve. In the face of resurgent anti-Semitism, Jewish families and communities around the world have refused to live in fear. And in determined vigil, families of innocent hostages have kept the faith.

“Israel’s determined response to the barbaric attacks of October 7 casts in stark relief the difference between a sovereign democracy’s effort to minimize innocent suffering and savage terrorists’ effort to exploit it. No matter how many leaders or elite institutions attempt to draw moral equivalence, the difference is unmistakable.

“The stakes of Israel’s fight against the terrorists surrounding it are as clear today as they were one year ago. So are the obligations of free societies across the civilized world. The terrorists and their patrons seek not only to destroy Israel, but to challenge the very American-led order that preserves our way of life.

“Make no mistake: a future of peace in the Middle East must include a secure and sovereign Israel. There is no place in such a future for terrorists like Hamas, Hizballah, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, or the Houthis. Today, as Americans and free people around the world remember the victims of October 7th and pray for peace, let us recommit to stand with Israel in its righteous fight.”