

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 9, 2024

President Joe Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

We write with concern that your Administration is holding up precision guided weapons shipments¹ to Israel and request you end the pause of weapons deliveries immediately. Reports confirm your Administration put on hold at least 1,800 2,000-pound bombs and 1,700 500 pound-bombs². Israel is our greatest ally in the Middle East and we must unequivocally support their effort to eliminate Hamas.

A pause in arms deliveries is a sign of weakness and is already being interpreted as an effort to dissuade Israel from eradicating Hamas. Further, considering the recent riots and antisemitic protests by Hamas sympathizers on college campuses, this move appears to be another attempt to placate to the far left of your political base.

Israel has every right to defend itself and slow rolling weapons to them will hinder their ability to eliminate Hamas. Reports mention that your Administration has not approved the weapons transfer process for the Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM) and Small Diameter Bombs (SDB).³ The JDAM and SDB are critical and reliable precision weapon systems that enable Israeli operations against Hamas. This is the first time since the October 7th conflict began that your Administration has delayed weapons to Israel.

Secretary Austin confirmed the pause yesterday⁴ and said, "...we are currently reviewing some near-term security assistance shipments in the context of unfolding events in Rafah." Further troubling are the reports that shipments were held up "for political reasons and not because of supply chain strain."⁵ We find these delays unacceptable and request that you approve the weapons sales immediately. For these reasons, please provide a response to the following questions by no later than May 24, 2024.

¹ **U.S. Delays Sending Precision Weapons to Israel**

<https://www.wsj.com/world/middle-east/u-s-delays-sending-precision-weapons-to-israel-253f12f0>

² **U.S. paused bomb shipment to Israel over Rafah concerns, official says**

<https://www.axios.com/2024/05/08/us-israel-bombs-shipment-gaza-pause>

³ **US concerns over Israel's Gaza policy led to weapons holdup**

<https://www.politico.com/news/2024/05/07/us-concerns-over-israels-gaza-policy-led-to-weapons-holdup-00156528#:~:text=The%20munitions%20were%20ready%20to,the%20administration%20placed%20the%20hold.&text=The%20Biden%20administration%20is%20holding,with%20knowledge%20of%20the%20deliberations.>

⁴ **Austin confirms US pausing bomb shipments to Israel, but commitment still 'ironclad'**

<https://www.politico.com/news/2024/05/08/austin-israel-bomb-shipments-00156819>

⁵ **US concerns over Israel's Gaza policy led to weapons holdup**

- 1) Who within your Administration ordered this pause, if not you?
- 2) Has your Administration considered pausing other key munitions besides JDAM and SDB? If yes, please provide an accounting of munitions that have been delayed.

Sincerely,



Mark Alford
Member of Congress



Michael Waltz
Member of Congress



Jack Bergman
Member of Congress



Ronny L. Jackson
Member of Congress



Rich McCormick, MD, MBA
Member of Congress

CC:

The Honorable Lloyd J. Austin III
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

The Honorable Antony Blinken
Secretary of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Jake Sullivan
National Security Advisor
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500