



July 4, 2025

**President Donald J. Trump**  
**The White House**  
**Washington DC**

Mr. President,

I write to you on behalf of the over 550 members of *Commanders for Israel's Security (CIS)*, all former senior officers of the IDF, Mossad, Shin Bet, Police, NSC and Foreign Service. We wish to urge you to leverage your upcoming meeting with Prime Minister Netanyahu to realize your vision: end the Gaza war, bring all the hostages home, end the death and suffering of innocents, launch a Hamas-free 'morning after' for the Strip, and pave the way for a new regional security coalition that includes Israel.

Mr. President, you created this historic opportunity, please don't let it slip away.

Your approach is supported by over 70% of the Israeli public. Likewise, the IDF Chief of Staff has concluded that the IDF has attained all that can be accomplished by military force and that it is time to leverage its achievements through diplomacy.

Indeed, it is our professional judgement as well, that the IDF has long accomplished its dual mission of dismantling Hamas governance and essentially destroying its military capabilities. Hamas no longer poses a strategic threat to Israel, and as demonstrated this year on multiple fronts – not least in Lebanon and Iran – Israel possesses overwhelming power and ability to neutralize any threat that might arise from Gaza in the future.

While further fighting is likely to kill a few more terrorists, it risks the lives of hostages, will continue to cost yet more IDF casualties, and prolong the suffering of innocent Palestinians. More broadly, it is likely to cause a loss of momentum in leveraging military achievements in Gaza, Lebanon and most recently Iran, towards implementing your vision for a regional strategic transformation.

Furthermore, it is also the professional judgement of the hundreds of CIS retired generals that a partial and staggered hostage deal and a limited ceasefire entail the same risks to the lives of remaining hostages, to IDF soldiers and to innocent Palestinians, and will most likely lead to renewed fighting, all while reducing prospects for expanding the Abraham Accords and forging a regional alliance that includes Israel.



Prime Minister Netanyahu is well aware of overwhelming public support for an end to the war. Moreover, we are convinced that he shares the assessment of the IDF Chief of Staff and CIS members as spelled out above. We are convinced that no one can better strengthen his hand than you can, Mr. President.

With your support and firm demand to change course now, to end the war, bring all hostages home and make room for stabilizing diplomacy that secures Hamas-free Gaza governance, the prime minister will be able to stand up to the extreme minority that is continuously pushing for ever more destabilizing violence.

Mr. President, we are probably not wrong in suggesting that nowhere on earth are you more popular than in Israel. That was the case even prior to your courageous, forceful and effective action in Iran. That vast Israeli majority now awaits your similarly decisive decision and assertive leadership to bring this war to an end, the hostages home, and to start creating a new, bright and stable future.

We end with heartfelt wishes for a most joyful and gratifying Independence Day.

Most Respectfully,

Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Matan Vilnai

Chair