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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

March 15, 2022

Ms. Agnès Callamard
Secretary General
Amnesty International
1 Easton Street
London, WC1X 0DW
United Kingdom

Dear Secretary General Callamard,

We were deeply disturbed to read the comments of Mr. O'Brien, the Amnesty International USA Executive Director that Israel "shouldn't exist as a Jewish state" and that he reached this conclusion about what the Jewish people want, not based on surveys of American Jews, but his own "gut." We write today's letter after reviewing the full transcript of Mr. O'Brien's remarks and exchange from March 9, 2022 at the Women's National Democratic Club, which reveals even more troubling details.

Across centuries, others have denied the Jewish people agency and believed they knew what is best for the Jewish people. For two thousand years, Jews around the world suffered under arbitrary rulers—monarchs, czars, potentates and dictators. Indeed, this week, Jews celebrate Purim which details the defeat of Haman who attempted to destroy them as a people over 2500 years ago.

It was not until 1948 with the establishment of the one and only Jewish state of Israel that the Jewish people again could control their own destiny.

Mr. O'Brien's comments, coupled with Amnesty International's report released last month, appear to be part of Amnesty International's continued dangerous degree of bias and denial of Israel's right to exist as a Jewish state. Amnesty International cannot credibly advance human rights around the globe while simultaneously denying the only Jewish state their right to self-determination.

In a region where religious intolerance and authoritarianism are too often the norm, Israel stands out as a pluralistic exception. Israel, like every nation, is not perfect. Amnesty International could work to strengthen Israel's democracy for all Israeli citizens, Jewish and Arab, while also promoting self-determination for both people and progress towards a viable two-state solution. Sadly, Amnesty International's recent report accusing Israel of apartheid and questioning the

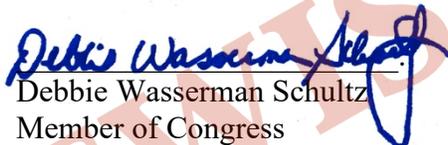
legitimacy of the state's founding, and Mr. O'Brien's more recent comments, only serve to reinforce entrenched positions.

Israel has built a vibrant democracy where all citizens, regardless of religion, race, or ethnicity, have rights and are represented at the highest levels of government, education, healthcare, business and the courts. In fact, Israel currently has perhaps the most diverse governing coalition in the world, made up of parties across the political spectrum, including the United Arab List. Israel's government ministers include Jews and Muslims, religious and secular, Arabs, Ethiopians, and LGBTQ representatives. Israel has a Muslim member of its supreme court. Israel is the only country in the Middle East where Jews and Arabs govern together.

Mr. O'Brien's comments, if not denounced, lay bare the real purpose of Amnesty International's report on Israel. It is not an attempt to give a fair analysis of Israel and its policies, nor an effort to support the aspirations of both the Arab and Jewish people. Rather, it is a tacit attempt to delegitimize and ultimately destroy Israel as the only Jewish state in the world.

We call on Amnesty International to clarify its position, whether or not it seeks to advance peace for both Israelis and Palestinians; whether or not it accepts Israel as a democratic, Jewish state; and whether or not it supports a Palestinian state living side by side with Israel with mutual security, peace and prosperity.

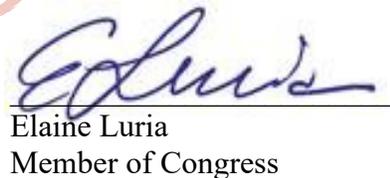
Sincerely,

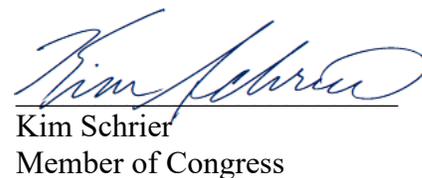

Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress


Brad Schneider
Member of Congress

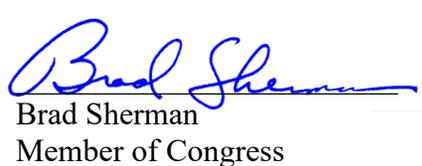

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