



UNITED STATES SENATE

October 25, 2023

His Excellency
Mr. Antonio Guterres
Secretary-General of the United Nations
760 United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017

Dear Secretary Guterres:

I have enjoyed our working relationship over the years. However, I am completely shocked by your statement at the United Nations Security Council meeting regarding the barbaric attack by Hamas against Israel. You suggested the Hamas attack did not occur in a vacuum, indicating there might be compelling reasons for this terrorist organization to take such inhumane actions against a sovereign state.

As Secretary General of the United Nations, you represent the voice of the world and your role is to address situations that threaten world peace and security, especially situations where atrocities are occurring. Your statement suggests there is some moral equivalence between the actions of Hamas and the State of Israel. In light of your statement, you clearly do not understand that Hamas does not, and never will, represent the Palestinian people. Hamas does not care about freeing the Palestinian people from oppression.

Hamas wants to destroy the Jewish state – an agenda that is equivalent to Nazi ideology. Palestinians living under Hamas would be instantly killed if they expressed a desire to live in peace with Israel. The actions of Hamas over the past decades paint a clear picture of who they are and what they believe. They are barbaric murderers, rapists, and genocidal religious fanatics.

I urge you to correct your statement now before lasting damage is done to the United Nations. Your words are comparable to someone in a prominent position during the Holocaust suggesting there are two sides to this story and you should take the Nazi view into account.

For the future of the United Nations and for human decency, I urge you to speak boldly and clearly, without equivocation regarding the effort by Hamas to slaughter Israelis and drive the world into darkness.

Much is at stake at this moment.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lindsey O. Graham".

Lindsey O. Graham
United States Senator