



Office of the Attorney General
Washington, D. C. 20530

October 14, 2023

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL UNITED STATES ATTORNEYS
DIRECTOR, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FROM: THE ATTORNEY GENERAL *Merrick Garland*
SUBJECT: REMAINING VIGILANT AGAINST THREATS OF VIOLENCE
IN THE WAKE OF TERRORIST ATTACKS IN ISRAEL

As I said in my public statement earlier this week, the horrific terrorist attacks in Israel mark the deadliest massacre of Jews since the Holocaust. The attacks left over 1000 civilians murdered and many more kidnapped or injured. They instilled fear in communities around the world.

The Justice Department will investigate the crimes that have been committed against Americans, hold perpetrators accountable, and support the victims of this massacre. Over the last week, the Department has focused on working with the families of missing Americans to locate their loved ones. We will continue to work on the return of all missing Americans, including those believed to have been taken hostage, and to identify any additional ways in which we can provide them with support, including through our Office for Victims of Crime, through the International Terrorism Victim Expense Reimbursement Program, and through the work of the FBI. Meanwhile, we will continue to gather evidence against those responsible and use all available tools to disrupt illicit financial flows that enable their activity.

The Justice Department will also do everything it can to prevent terrorist groups and other criminal actors from doing harm here in the United States. This will require close communication among federal, state, local, and Tribal law enforcement, and you should reach out to your law enforcement partners to offer support and encourage coordination. The FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Forces will distribute the latest intelligence on possible terrorist activity and coordinate any necessary response with our federal, state, local, and Tribal partners. Across the Department, the National Security Division leads coordination and oversight of all terrorism matters. Likewise, the experienced prosecutors in each U.S. Attorney's Office who serve as Anti-Terrorism Advisory Council (ATAC) coordinators ensure information is being shared swiftly and regularly across all U.S. Attorneys' Offices and the Department. You should be in regular and close touch with the ATAC network, as well as with law enforcement partners in your districts, to offer support and encourage coordination.

You should also be vigilant in your efforts to identify and respond to any hate crimes, threats of violence, or related incidents, with particular attention to threats to faith communities in your districts. Preventing violence also requires staying firmly connected with the communities we serve. Through initiatives like the United Against Hate community outreach program, as well as your individual efforts within your districts, you have built new relationships and, most important, trust. Over the next days and weeks, you should engage with religious and other community leaders in your districts to reaffirm our commitment to them and to assess what additional support may be needed. Community partners serve an indispensable role in stemming the spread of violence and supporting our work to protect the right of all Americans to be free from violence or threats of violence. We must marshal all available resources to assist them.

To that end, you should review all resources available to the Department, including those of the Civil Rights Division, the Criminal Division, the National Security Division, and the Community Relations Service. The Department's expertise is deep and varied, and your offices should not hesitate to draw on that expertise.

Thank you for all you do to keep our communities safe.

cc: The Deputy Attorney General
The Associate Attorney General
The Assistant Attorney General for National Security
The Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division
The Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division
The Director, Community Relations Service