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13 Iyar 5783
May 11, 2023

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Senate Majority Leader
322 Hart SOB
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Schumer,

On Tuesday May 9, we sent a letter to you and the other three party leaders in both Houses of Congress, calling for bipartisan condemnation of the "Nakba" event intended to be held in the Capitol Visitors Center. Speaker McCarthy responded with alacrity, and did more than we asked; he preempted the room reservation, preventing this antisemitic hatefest from disgracing the U.S. Capitol Building.

Yet the gathering found a new home in the hearing room controlled by Sen. Bernie Sanders in the Dirksen Senate Office Building. Everett Dirksen, after whom the building is named, was a strong backer of Israel's security. This was a travesty to his memory.

As hundreds of missiles fired by genocidal terrorists rained down on Israel, Rashida Tlaib, Linda Sarsour, and a collection of hate groups gathered to say that Jewish children are "occupiers" in their homeland and deserve to be terrorized and killed. Not only are Democrats caucusing with bigoted individuals like Rep. Tlaib and, dare we say, Sen. Sanders, but have enabled the very celebration of bigotry that the Republican leader of the House removed from the Capitol building.

Your office failed to respond to this outrage as it happened. Will you now publicly condemn this propaganda exercise and its open incitement against Jews, as we requested of you two days ago? You surely know that further silence sends a troubling message of its own.

You have often reminded the Jewish community that your last name, Schumer, comes from the Hebrew word *Shomer*, a watchman, and that you guard both the US-Israel relationship and American and Jewish values. Yet both the notions of bipartisan support for Israel and that hatred should not be promoted in Congress were both actively undermined on Wednesday evening, May 10, on your watch. This moment demands your response.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Yoel Schonfeld".

Rabbi Yoel Schonfeld
President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Yaakov Menken".

Rabbi Yaakov Menken
Managing Director