

May 19, 2017

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump:

We write regarding your upcoming travel to Saudi Arabia, Israel, and the Vatican.

We commend your decision to accept the invitation from the three religious capitals of the world in your first official visit as President. This trip demonstrates America's commitment to tolerance and willingness to strengthen diplomatic relations with all people, regardless of race, religion, or creed.

Jerusalem is to Israel and the Jewish People as Mecca is to Saudi Arabia and Muslims: Jews around the world face Jerusalem during prayer just like Muslims face Mecca during theirs. The Vatican is the capital of Catholicism—a capital so holy that only Catholics are allowed citizenship. These places are the roots of the congregations that grow out of them.

Each one of these religions has a capital central to their identity. Israel, however, lacks formal recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of the Jewish people. Due to the significance of this holy place, we request that you officially recognize Jerusalem as the undivided capital of the State of Israel on your visit. This action would affirm U.S. law, as the *Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995* states:

1. *Jerusalem should remain an undivided city in which the rights of every ethnic and religious group are protected.*
2. *Jerusalem should be recognized as the capital of the State of Israel [and]*
3. *The United States Embassy in Israel should be established in Jerusalem.*

It is long past due for America to follow through on our pledge to recognize Jerusalem as the undivided capital of Israel and fulfill our commitment to our strongest ally in the Middle East. The strategic partnership between the United States and Israel has led to innumerable contributions that benefit the United States. Most notably, Israel has been a leader in missile defense, counterterrorism, and medical and technological research. Equally important is the fact that Israel is the only democratic state in the middle of a region in which war, extremism, and dictatorship permeate throughout.

We ask you to follow the law of our nation, the Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995, and honor our commitment to Israel in your upcoming visit, as it coincides with the 50th Anniversary of the Reunification of Jerusalem.

We have tremendous confidence that you will also keep your campaign promise to relocate the American Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. Recognizing Jerusalem as the undivided capital of Israel is the first step in that process.

Mr. President, we encourage you to take a stand in supporting what all civilized nations in the world are given—the right for their capital to be recognized by the United States.

Sincerely,

Doug Lamborn

Mark Meadows

Lee Zeldin