June 18, 2024

Congressman John Duarte
Representing Fresno County, California

1535 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC  20515

RE: Boycotting Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s Joint Address to Congress

Dear Congressional Delegation Members:

As resolved by the San Joaquin Valley Democratic Club, we strongly urge you to boycott Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s joint address to Congress scheduled for July 24th by refusing to attend and publicly condemning the decision of both Democratic and Republican party leaders who invited him to speak.

The International Court of Justice has found that Netanyahu is directly orchestrating a genocidal campaign in Gaza, killing over 40,000 Palestinians, including more than 17,000 children. Approximately 1.5 million people have been displaced and Gaza’s entire healthcare infrastructure has been destroyed. Israeli airstrikes have killed more than 100 journalists and seven aid workers from the World Central Kitchen were killed.

We’ve witnessed unimaginable horrors unleashed on Palestinian civilians, including the intentional starvation of civilians as a tool of warfare and the denial of humanitarian aid. Netanyahu has flagrantly crossed the Biden Administration's “red line” by pressing forward with a ground invasion of Rafah, On May 25th, two days after the ICJ ruled that Israel must stop its military incursion into Gaza.

Despite these well-documented atrocities and arrest warrants, our lawmakers are rewarding Netanyahu with the honor of addressing a joint session of Congress. By choosing to attend this address, members of Congress would be endorsing and normalizing Netanyahu’s crimes and complicit in genocide. According to a March 2024 Gallup poll, 55 percent of Americans disagree with Israel’s war on Gaza. Boycotting this address is not only a moral duty but also a powerful statement in support of democracy, human rights and justice. By boycotting Netanyahu's address, you will demonstrate your commitment to justice, human rights, and the values that underpin our democracy.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. We are hopeful that you will make the right decision.

Sincerely,

San Joaquin Democratic Club Board and Membership

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