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United States Mission to the OSCE
U.S. Statement for the
Forum for Security Co-operation:
Anniversary of the October 7 Attack on Israel

As Delivered by Arms Control Counselor Daniel Wartko
October 9, 2024

Thank you, Mr. Chair,

October 7 marked a tragic anniversary. Last year, more than 1,200 innocent men, women and children, including 46 Americans and citizens of more than 30 countries, were slaughtered by Hamas.

Hamas also took 254 people hostage that day, including 12 Americans. Nearly 100 hostages from 25 nations remain held in Gaza today. Hamas should release these hostages immediately.

The United States will not stop working to achieve a ceasefire deal in Gaza that brings the hostages home, allows for a surge in humanitarian aid to ease the suffering on the ground, assures Israel's security, and ends this war. Israelis and Palestinians alike deserve to live in security, dignity, and peace. We also continue to believe that a diplomatic solution across the Israel-Lebanon border region is the only path to restore lasting calm and allow residents on both sides to return safely to their homes.

The international community must stand united in the face of terrorism and violent extremism. It must condemn Iran's support for Hamas and other terrorist groups in the region that are responsible for so much death, destruction, and instability.

On this painful anniversary, the United States stands with Israel as it defends itself against terrorism. We remain steadfast in our commitment to lasting peace and stability across the region and for a common future for Israelis and Palestinians with equal measures of security, dignity, opportunity, and freedom.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.