

United States Senate

February 1, 2022

Dr. Agnès Callamard
Secretary General
Amnesty International

Dear Secretary General Callamard:

I write to express my strong disapproval with Amnesty International's recent biased and erroneous report accusing the State of Israel of being an apartheid state, and I call for its retraction. I am concerned such accusations will only worsen antisemitism, encourage anti-Israel extremists, and harm efforts for a peaceful resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Israel is a strong democracy with robust opposition and minority parties, including an Arab party within Israel's governing coalition. Israel's Arab citizens have full rights and the ability to participate within the democratic process and have their voices heard and represented within Israel's government. This stands in stark contrast to the state of human rights in countries elsewhere in the region and the world and this report serves as a blatant example of double standards being applied to Israel in an effort to delegitimize the government.

The past several years have resulted in great progress in relations between Israel and its Arab neighbors. The historic Abraham Accords have resulted in the normalization of relations between Israel and several Arab states, providing a template and path forward for peace in the Middle East. Biased and one-sided reports such as this detract from the peace process and will increase antisemitism. I stand with Israel and Jewish people around the world and urge you to retract this report immediately.

Sincerely,



STEVE DAINES
United States Senator