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Christian
Communicators
Impacting
the World



September 12, 2014

The Honorable Ted Cruz
185 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cruz:

Thank you for your stand on religious freedom, your concern for persecuted Christians, and for your support for the nation of Israel. As President and CEO of the National Religious Broadcasters (NRB), I write to encourage you following the poor treatment you received at the "In Defense of Christians" dinner this week. While I was not present, I have seen your account of the event, as well as press reports and relevant video online. I am concerned that any United States Senator would be treated with such disrespect, regardless of the topic, and I am particularly dismayed that the subject greeted with such hostility is our solidarity with Israel.

Senator, please know that we stand with you in this matter. There is no doubt in my mind that Israel is America's most important ally in the Middle East. For sure, the democratic principles of Israel promise Christians and others seeking religious freedom in the region the most hope for peace and liberty.

I am concerned that there are people of good will in the Christian community, here and abroad, for whom there is a false dichotomy – you support the Jewish people *or* you support Christians living in the Middle East. Historical grievances cannot justify this either/or mentality; certainly, I do not share it.

We must stand up for our brothers and sisters in Christ facing violent persecution in the Middle East, Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, and elsewhere. I was an original signer of the "Pledge of Solidarity & Call to Action" in Egypt, Iraq, and Syria, and I spoke at the press conference on that subject organized by Rep. Frank Wolf (R-VA) and Rep. Anna Eshoo (D-CA) earlier this year. I am committed to this cause.

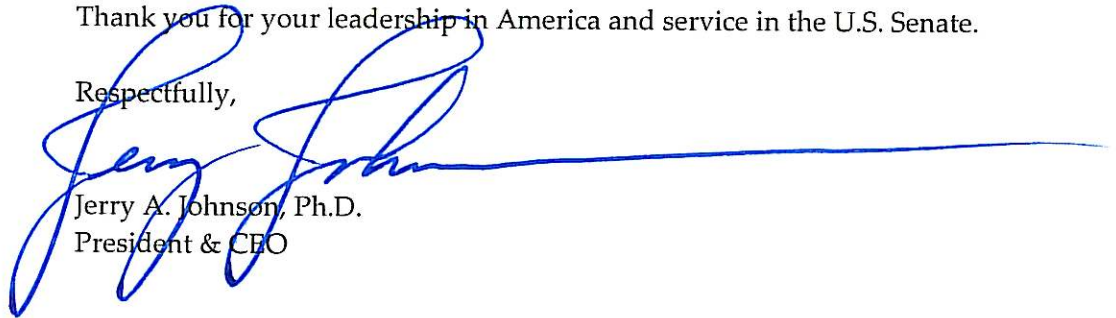
At the same time, I pray for the peace of Jerusalem, as do many in our association. I just recently returned from a "Christians in Solidarity with Israel" trip in which eleven Christian media and ministry leaders visited the land, the people, and the leadership of Israel to show them, their friends, and their enemies

that we support their right to exist and defend themselves, even if others do not. I experienced firsthand the alarm felt as Hamas-fired rockets entered a town we were visiting. I cannot imagine living in that situation day upon day. Truly, I wonder if many other nations, even other democratic states, would be as restrained as Israel has been if attacked in such a manner by terrorists.

Thank you for pointing out the cancerous hate that drives such evil as we are now seeing clearly in the Middle East. I am saddened you were mistreated, but please know that I and many others agree with you and salute you for your unapologetic stand for Christians worldwide, Israel, and religious freedom for all.

Thank you for your leadership in America and service in the U.S. Senate.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jerry Johnson", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Jerry A. Johnson, Ph.D.
President & CEO