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Notes from editor (not for publication):

HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

####BEGIN HED####

Balint responds to the work of a skewed anti-Israel body

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TEXT BODY:

####BEGIN TEXT####

On September 19, [U.S. Rep Becca Balint described the Israel-Hamas war](#) using long-debunked accusations and recycled falsehoods. Since then, a ceasefire has taken effect, and Hamas has returned all surviving hostages, marking what would be the first genocide in history conducted on a schedule set by its alleged victims.

With the end of this two-year-long war, we must turn our attention to how Hamas successfully spread antisemitic hate

12 while deceiving many leaders of the Free World, [despite their](#)
13 [own statement of genocidal intent](#).

14 On Oct. 7, 2023, Hamas didn't just launch a physical
15 assault on Israel, they waged a propaganda war that [flooded](#)
16 [media with misleading images](#) and catchy slogans. This campaign
17 poisoned public discourse, radicalized the impressionable, and
18 gave moral cover to a surge of antisemitic hate crimes and
19 rhetoric worldwide. Repeating these libels cements falsehoods as
20 facts and lays the foundation for excusing [violence against Jews](#)
21 [everywhere](#).

22 Taken together, the details reveal a starkly different
23 reality from the congresswoman's message:

24 The report to which Balint is responding is the work of a
25 skewed anti-Israel body. The United Nations General Assembly,
26 between 2015 and 2025, [issued a total of 254 condemnatory](#)
27 [rulings, with 173 aimed at Israel — 68% of the body's total](#). That
28 record alone should give pause before treating the U.N.'s
29 judgment as credible evidence of wrongdoing.

30 Since the war began, [Israel has facilitated entry of over](#)
31 [2.1 million tons of aid into Gaza](#). Meanwhile, [Hamas has been](#)
32 [accused of hijacking convoys, stealing aid](#), reselling supplies at
33 extortionate prices, and [assaulting civilians trying to access relief](#).
34 Hundreds of trucks [have been filmed](#) sitting idle inside Gaza with
35 food aid left to spoil.

36 Balint also cites the deceptively named International
37 Association of Genocide Scholars. What goes unmentioned is the
38 [IAGS policy of open membership to anyone willing to pay a \\$30](#)
39 [fee](#). After scrutiny, their [public member list was quietly removed](#)
40 and social media accounts deactivated. Relying on their
41 fraudulent proclamations is dangerously irresponsible.

42 Most misleading is the lack of context around casualty
43 reports. The Gaza Health Ministry is controlled by Hamas, a
44 [designated terrorist organization](#) since 1997, and makes no
45 distinction between combatant and civilian casualties. To repeat

46 their figures without scrutiny is to launder propaganda at the
47 expense of those forced to confront them.

48 Genocide isn't something one believes in. It is legally
49 defined with historical precedent. To that end, we the
50 undersigned residents of Vermont, denounce Congresswoman
51 Becca Balint's statement as careless and harmful. We expect our
52 representatives to prioritize facts, the rule of law, and safety of
53 constituents here at home.

####END TEXT####

BIO/COATTAIL:

####BEGIN BIO/COATTAIL####

54 Also signing this letter: Rachel Feldman, Moretown; Ari
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57 Colchester; Michael Gantt, Brattleboro; Ed Grossman, Chester;
58 Jeff Levine, Guilford; Draizy Junik, Burlington; Lorraine Marucci
59 Westcott, Newfane; Ernest Herz, South Burlington; Caryn
60 Schwartz Oliveti, Burlington; Nancy Goodhue, Brattleboro;
61 Sheldon Wein, Wilmington; Denise Gebroe, Proctorsville;
62 Melissa Mendelsohn, Charlotte; Dr. Jan Feldman, Northfield;
63 Elizabeth Morse, Brattleboro; Rick Westcott, Newfane; Chaim
64 Lodish, Burlington; Monica Schwartzbach, Ludlow; Rabbi Seth
65 Daniel Reimer, Bennington; Allison Fulcher, Royalton; Miriam
66 Ben-Dor, Barre; Karen Shapiro, Putney; Jamie Margolis,
67 Brattleboro; Nicholas Whitten, St. Albans; Gittel Grossman, South
68 Burlington; Zohar Arama, Townshend; Daphne Moritz, Hartford;
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75 Margie Pivar, Brattleboro; Pastor Bill Simmons, St. Albans;
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79 Jeffrey Morse, Brattleboro; Martin Cohn, Springfield; Ohad
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82 Bodge, Newfane; Bruce Saul, Williamsville; Valerie Weinstein
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LOGLINE (SOCIAL MEDIA):

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