

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

January 3, 2025

The Honorable Antony Blinken
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Blinken,

On September 6, 2024, 26-year-old U.S.-Turkish citizen Ayşenur Ezgi Eygi was fatally shot by an Israeli soldier in the West Bank village of Beita. The soldier was reportedly standing behind a concrete wall on a rooftop of a concrete house at an elevated location approximately 215 – 230 meters from where Ayşenur was standing next to a tree, and he fired two shots in close succession using a rifle. A local 17-year-old boy, reportedly standing approximately 15 – 20 meters from her on the other side of the tree, suffered a minor injury from a fragment of the first bullet that had reportedly ricocheted off a metal object. The second bullet hit Ayşenur on the left side of her head. We are not aware of any evidence that Ayşenur, the teenage boy, or anyone else in her proximity posed any threat to the soldier who shot her, or to anyone else.

We understand the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) is investigating this shooting, but a preliminary report released on September 10, 2024, which was reportedly based entirely on information provided by IDF soldiers, asserted that Ayşenur was hit “indirectly and unintentionally by IDF fire, which was not aimed at her, but aimed at the key instigator of the riot.” Detailed statements of international, Israeli, and Palestinian eyewitnesses, as well as a *Washington Post* inquiry that included interviewing 13 eyewitnesses and reviewing more than 50 videos and photographs, describe a significantly different sequence of events, which occurred far from the illegal Evyatar outpost. This case is disturbingly like the fatal shooting of Shireen Abu Akleh by an Israeli soldier located nearly 200 meters away. Shireen and Ayşenur each died from a single gunshot wound to the head.

We appreciated your statement that Ayşenur’s death was “unprovoked and unjustified,” and request your answers to the following questions no later than Tuesday, January 14, 2025:

1. What evidence, if any, is the Administration currently aware of that Ayşenur posed a threat to the soldier, or to anyone else, when the soldier fired the shots?
2. What evidence, if any, is the Administration currently aware of that the soldier who shot her was not aiming at her?
3. What evidence, if any, is the Administration currently aware of that the teenage boy who was injured posed a threat to the soldier, or to anyone else, when the soldier fired the shots?
4. What IDF unit was the soldier assigned to?
5. Who was the “key instigator” and where was he (or she) located when the soldier fired the shots?

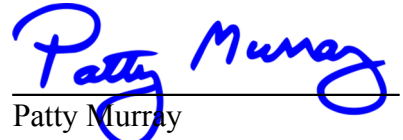
6. What evidence, if any, is the Administration currently aware of that the “key instigator” posed a threat to the soldier, or to anyone else, when the soldier fired the shots?
7. Have you requested the Department of Justice to investigate Ayşenur’s case? If not, why not? If so, is an investigation underway?

Thank you for your assistance. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Peter Welch
United States Senator



Patty Murray
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



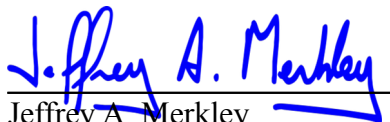
Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress



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