

## Ernst meets with Netanyahu, leads delegation visit to Israel

Iowa Republican: Hamas terrorist organization 'needs to be destroyed'



**Tom Barton**

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**Joni Ernst** @SenJoniErnst · [Follow](#)

Over the last week, I've led a bipartisan, bicameral CODEL to the Middle East.

I was in [#Israel](#) earlier today to show my unwavering commitment to our allies and friends — including PM [@netanyahu](#) — and to hear directly from American citizens on the ground.

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Ernst, a retired Iowa National Guard officer who did a tour of duty in Iraq, said Hamas is a terrorist organization or al-Qaida that “needs to be destroyed.”

“They are barbarians. They are savages, and the only way we move forward from this — the only way to a two-state solution — is if Hamas is gone,” Ernst said. “They need to be eradicated from the face of the Earth. The United States needs to stand with our strongest partner and ally, Israel.”

She said the “sadness and terror” in Israel is palpable, listening to stories of family members “that were killed, children that were burned alive.”

Ernst also called for freezing \$6 billion of Iranian assets that are [part of a prisoner swap the Biden administration agreed to in August](#) between the United States and Iran.

“Congress needs to come in and lean in heavy on this and make sure that those assets are frozen once they cannot access that money,” Ernst said. “We cannot continue to enable terrorism.”

Ernst also told Radio Iowa the United States must provide Israel with additional intelligence as well as a Dome missile-defense system, and that House Republicans must quickly select a new speaker so Congress can protect the interests of the nation abroad.”

Miller-Meeks has been in some of the overseas meetings with Ernst, including a visit Sunday to Saudi Arabia, but was not part of the delegation that visited Israel on Tuesday.

*Comments: (319) 398-8499; [tom.barton@thegazette.com](mailto:tom.barton@thegazette.com)*