

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 18, 2017

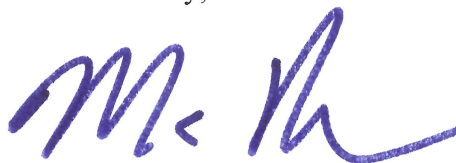
Dear Friends,

On July 18, 1947, the unarmed *S.S. Exodus* was sheltering 4,515 Holocaust survivors on their way to the Promised Land. While in international waters, the British Navy seized the ship and the refugees were returned to a detainment camp in post-war Germany with very poor conditions. This sad event helped reveal to the world the terrible treatment of Jews, which led to a surge of sympathy and ultimately the creation of a modern Jewish state.

Throughout many periods of history, the Jewish people have been subject to persecution and genocide. The creation of the Jewish state of Israel—a strong U.S. friend and ally—protected many people from acts of violence. America’s relationship with Israel is centered on mutual respect and trust. Our nations continue to be examples of tolerance, free enterprise and democracy for the rest of the world. Strengthening the partnership between America and Israel has been one of my highest priorities as a U.S. Senator. I am proud of what our two nations have been able to accomplish by working together.

On behalf of the people of Florida, I join you in remembering the people whose lives were forever changed by the *S.S. Exodus*. The United States has had a memorial in their honor in Baltimore Harbor since 1997, and I am glad a memorial will soon be dedicated in Israel. May God bless the United States and may God bless Israel.

Sincerely,



Marco Rubio
United States Senator