

March 31st, 2026

Mr. Haris Doukas

Mayor of Athens
Athens City Hall
63 Athinas, Historic Centre
105 52

Dear Mayor Doukas,

I am writing to you following my recent stay in Athens, which I described publicly after what was meant to be a brief respite for my family after weeks of living under Iranian missile threats.

Within minutes of walking through your city, we were confronted with a disturbing reality and felt compelled to cut our stay short immediately: walls covered in slogans such as “smash Zionism”, images of the Israeli flag defaced with swastikas replacing the Star of David, and repeated “free Gaza” markings used not as calls for peace, but as vehicles for hostility and intimidation. It was everywhere, at every corner, impossible to ignore. These are not isolated incidents or harmless expressions; they form a pattern that creates an atmosphere where antisemitism feels visible, tolerated, and normalized.

As the CEO of the Combat Antisemitism Movement, I cannot ignore what I witnessed. But beyond my role, I write to you as a parent who brought his children to what should have been a safe European city - a reality that stands in stark contrast to the legacy Athens is meant to embody.

Athens is not just any city. It stands as a symbol in human history: the birthplace of democracy, philosophy, and intellectual inquiry. Yet today, what we experienced reflects a city where such imagery and messaging are allowed to spread unchecked, risking a betrayal of the very principles it once gave to the world. In that sense, it is fair to say that Athens, in its current state, is falling short of - and, indeed, dishonoring - its own history.

I urge you to take this seriously. Confronting antisemitism in all its forms, including when it hides behind political slogans, is not only a responsibility - it is a test of the values Athens claims to represent.

Respectfully,



Sacha Roytman
Chief Executive Officer
Combat Antisemitism Movement