February 7, 2024

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart
Chairman
State and Foreign Operations Subcommittee
House Committee on Appropriations
H-307, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Barbara Lee
Ranking Member
State and Foreign Operations Subcommittee
House Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Christopher Coons
Chairman
State and Foreign Operations Subcommittee
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Room S-128, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
Ranking Member
State and Foreign Operations Subcommittee
Senate Committee on Appropriations
S-146A, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Diaz-Balart, Ranking Member Lee, Chairman Coons, and Ranking Member Graham,

As you finalize appropriations for Fiscal Year 2024, we write to you regarding funding for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). In light of UNRWA’s record of troublesome allegations and disturbing revelations since Hamas’s October 7 terrorist attack on Israel, we believe that going forward no further U.S. taxpayer funds can be given to the agency.

The totality of evidence regarding UNRWA’s conduct demonstrates its systemic and incurable ties to terror. Credible allegations that twelve UNRWA employees were connected to the October 7 attack have led to a pause in funding by the United States and several other donor countries. On January 29, 2024, the Wall Street Journal published intelligence assessments describing UNRWA’s deep ties to Hamas and other terrorist groups. Specifically, roughly 1,200 UNRWA employees, or about 10 percent of its Gaza staff, have ties to terrorist groups, while half have close relatives who belong to these groups.¹

Other concerns abound. Weapons have been found in UNRWA schools.² Hamas tunnels have been found adjacent to UNRWA facilities.³ Hamas has stolen $1 million in UNRWA supplies since October 7,⁴ while UNRWA facilities may have been used to hold hostages.⁵ UNRWA has also faced longstanding criticism over its educational programming which indoctrinates Palestinian youth in antisemitism and terror.

In short, UNRWA is part of the problem and so, we believe U.S. funding must not be permitted. As Congress works to advance appropriations legislation, we respectfully request that you include language prohibiting any funds from being made available to UNRWA in the Fiscal Year 2024 Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act. We appreciate your attention to this timely and important matter.

Sincerely,

Darrell Issa
Member of Congress

Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress

Andrew Ogles
Member of Congress

August Pfluger
Member of Congress

⁴ Carrie Keller-Lynn and David Luhnow, “Intelligence Reveals Details of U.N. Agency Staff’s Links to Oct. 7 Attack.”
Claudia Tenney  
Member of Congress

Randy K. Weber, Sr.  
Member of Congress

Ralph Norman  
Member of Congress

Scott DesJarlais, M.D.  
Member of Congress

Tom Tiffany  
Member of Congress

Jeff Duncan  
Member of Congress

Mike Flood  
Member of Congress

Matthew Rosendale, Sr.  
Member of Congress

Rich McCormick, MD, MBA  
Member of Congress

Aaron Bean  
Member of Congress

Thomas H. Kean, Jr.  
Member of Congress

Barry Loudermilk  
Member of Congress
Alex X. Mooney  
Member of Congress

Kat Cammack  
Member of Congress

Harriet M. Hageman  
Member of Congress

Pete Stauber  
Member of Congress

Keith Self  
Member of Congress

Cliff Bentz  
Member of Congress

Barry Moore  
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Doug Lamborn  
Member of Congress

Ronny L. Jackson  
Member of Congress

Doug LaMalfa  
Member of Congress

Mary E. Miller  
Member of Congress

Scott Fitzgerald  
Member of Congress
Lance Gooden  
Member of Congress  

Anthony D'Esposito  
Member of Congress  

Burgess Owens  
Member of Congress  

Mariannette Miller-Meeks, M.D.  
Member of Congress  

Gary J. Palmer  
Member of Congress  

W. Gregory Steube  
Member of Congress  

Debbie Lesko  
Member of Congress  

Earl L. "Buddy" Carter  
Member of Congress  

James R. Baird, PhD  
Member of Congress