



United States House of Representatives
One Hundred Eighteenth Congress
Committee on Financial Services
2129 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

October 19, 2023

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20220

The Honorable Janet Yellen
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.
Washington D.C. 20220

Re: Emergency Assistance to the Palestinian Authority

Dear President Biden and Secretary Yellen:

Yesterday in Israel the President announced the United States would provide approximately \$100 million in ‘humanitarian’ assistance to Gaza and the West Bank. In particular, the President stated “[t]his funding will help support over a million displaced and conflict-affected people with clean water, food, hygiene support, medical care, and other essential needs.”¹ Later representatives from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) stated the funding was to be provided “through USAID and the U.S. Department of State, “and is intended to “bolster[s] support for displaced and other conflict-affected Palestinian people.”² The announcement raises several concerning issues.

As you both know, humanitarian assistance is fungible, particularly when provided to state sponsors of terrorism or their proxies. Without significant due diligence and controls in place, it is more than likely that funds or material assistance provided for these populations will instead be diverted to fund the continuation of terrorist activity whether in Gaza, the West Bank, or another terrorist stronghold. Prior to releasing any additional humanitarian assistance, several questions must be answered, including the following:

¹ [U.S. Announcement of Humanitarian Assistance to the Palestinian People | The White House.](#)

² [U.S. Mobilizes \\$100 Million in Life-Saving Humanitarian Assistance for Urgent Needs in Gaza and the West Bank | Press Statement | U.S. Agency for International Development \(usaid.gov\).](#)

1. What assurances does Congress have that this assistance will not finance terror?
2. What due diligence or assessments were conducted prior to the announcement that aid to displaced or conflict-affected Palestinian people would not be diverted to support or finance terrorism?
3. What mechanisms will be put in place to prevent the diversion of assistance to state sponsors of terrorism or their proxies?
4. How will the Department of the Treasury ensure that primary and secondary sanctions currently in place against Iran will not be impacted?

Congress and the American public deserve answers to these questions prior to the release of any assistance. Please respond to Mitch Erdel (mitch.erdel@mail.house.gov) no later than October 31, 2023. We appreciate your attention to this request.

Sincerely,



Blaine Luetkemeyer
Chairman
Subcommittee on National Security,
Illicit Finance and
International Financial Institutions



Andy Barr
Chairman
Subcommittee on Financial Institutions
and Monetary Policy



Roger Williams
Chairman
House Small Business Committee



Dan Meuser
Member of Congress



Barry Loudermilk
Member of Congress



Andy Ogles
Member of Congress



Monica De La Cruz
Member of Congress



Zach Nunn
Member of Congress