



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

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.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Carrie Keller-Lynn and David Luhnow, "Intelligence Reveals Details of U.N. Agency Staff's Links to Oct. 7 Attack," *The Wall Street Journal*, January 29, 2024, [https://www.wsj.com/world/middle-east/at-least-12-u-n-agency-employees-involved-in-oct-7-attacks-intelligence-reports-say-a7de8f36?mod=beauty\\_whatsnews\\_pos1](https://www.wsj.com/world/middle-east/at-least-12-u-n-agency-employees-involved-in-oct-7-attacks-intelligence-reports-say-a7de8f36?mod=beauty_whatsnews_pos1), (accessed February 2, 2024).

Other concerns abound. Weapons have been found in UNRWA schools.<sup>2</sup> Hamas tunnels have been found adjacent to UNRWA facilities.<sup>3</sup> Hamas has stolen \$1 million in UNRWA supplies since October 7,<sup>4</sup> while UNRWA facilities may have been used to hold hostages.<sup>5</sup> UNRWA has also faced longstanding criticism over its educational programing 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,



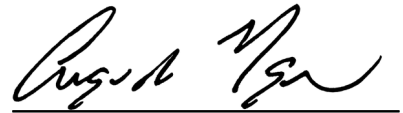
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August Pfluger  
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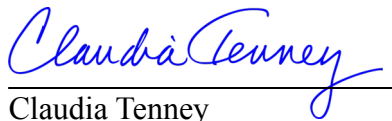
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<sup>2</sup> Pamela Falk, "Israel Says These Photos Show How Hamas Places Weapons in and near U.N. Facilities in Gaza, Including Schools," *CBS News*, November 8, 2023, <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/israel-photos-hamas-gaza-weapons-un-facilities-including-schools/>, (accessed February 2, 2024).

<sup>3</sup> Emanuel Fabian, "IDF says it destroyed Hamas tunnel next to UNRWA School in Gaza," *Times of Israel*, November 8, 2023, [https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog\\_entry/idf-says-it-destroyed-hamas-tunnel-next-to-unrwa-school-in-gaza/](https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/idf-says-it-destroyed-hamas-tunnel-next-to-unrwa-school-in-gaza/), (accessed February 2, 2024).

<sup>4</sup> Carrie Keller-Lynn and David Luhnnow, "Intelligence Reveals Details of U.N. Agency Staff's Links to Oct. 7 Attack."

<sup>5</sup> Andrew Tobin, "UNRWA Teachers Held Israeli Boy, Elderly Woman Hostage for Hamas," *Washington Free Beacon*, January 29, 2024, <https://freebeacon.com/national-security/unrwa-teachers-held-israeli-boy-elderly-woman-hostage-for-hamas/>, (accessed February 2, 2024).



Claudia Tenney  
Member of Congress



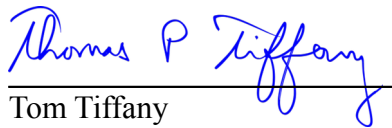
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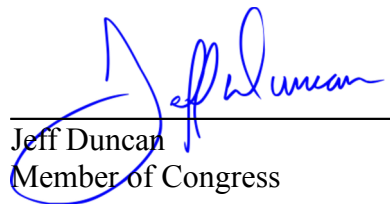
Ralph Norman  
Member of Congress



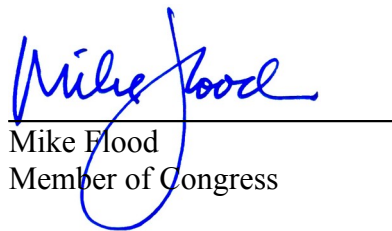
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Jeff Duncan  
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Mike Flood  
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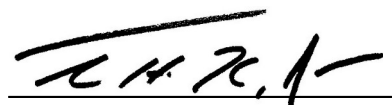
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Barry Loudermilk  
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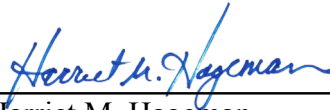
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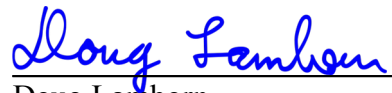
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Barry Moore  
Member of Congress



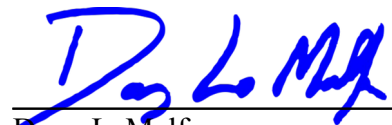
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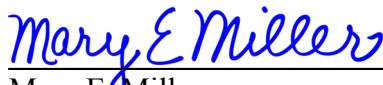
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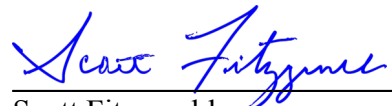
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Doug LaMalfa  
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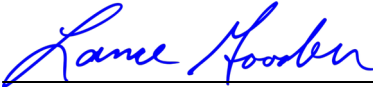
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Mary E. Miller  
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Scott Fitzgerald  
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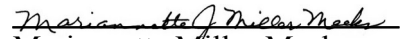
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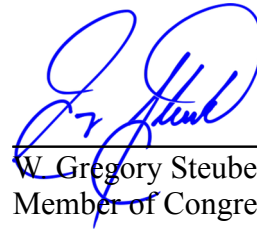
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Mariannette Miller-Meeks,  
M.D.  
Member of Congress



Gary J. Palmer  
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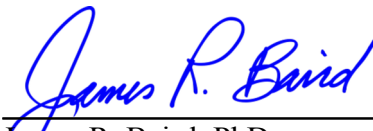
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