

October 26, 2023

The Honorable Antony J. Blinken  
Secretary  
Department of State  
2201 C Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20520

The Honorable Samantha Power  
Administrator  
U.S. Agency for International Development  
1300 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Secretary Blinken and Administrator Power:

Given the Administration's national security supplemental request, I write to seek information and transparency regarding the use of U.S. taxpayer funds. U.S. taxpayers have provided funds, in the form of U.S. foreign assistance, to Gaza, which is controlled by Hamas, a U.S.-designated Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO) that is backed by Iran's terror-sponsoring regime.

As a State Department records response to a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request recently revealed, State Department officials warned during internal deliberations in March 2021:

*Due to its overall strength and level of control over Gaza, we assess there is a high risk Hamas could potentially derive indirect, unintentional benefit from U.S. assistance to Gaza. There is less but still some risk U.S. assistance would benefit other designated [Foreign Terrorist Organization] groups.<sup>1</sup>*

Moreover, multiple reports over the last year have revealed that the State Department has sent funds to Gaza-based organizations that cooperate with and support Palestinian terrorists.<sup>2</sup>

I want to ensure that not one single penny of U.S. taxpayer funds ever ends up again in the hands of Hamas and other Iran-backed Palestinian terrorists who savagely murdered over 1400 people in Israel—including at least 33 Americans—on October 7, 2023. Therefore, in the interest of transparency, I request, on behalf of the U.S. taxpayers who fund the U.S. government and its activities, that the State Department and USAID fully and faithfully respond to the two questions below prior to Secretary Blinken's appearance before the Senate Appropriations Committee hearing titled "A Review of the National Security Supplemental Request" on October 31, 2023:

---

<sup>1</sup> Letter from Diamonece Hickson, Chief, Litigation and Appeals Branch, Office of Information Programs and Services, U.S. Department of State, to Morgan Yardis, Protect the Public's Trust, in re: Case No. FL-2022-00043, June 14, 2023, p. 58 at <https://freebeacon.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/FL-2022-00043-June-2023-Production.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> See Gabe Kaminsky, "State Department bankrolls group accused of 'cooperating' with Palestinian terrorists," *Washington Examiner*, September 27, 2023, at <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/state-department-bankrolls-accused-cooperating-with-palestinian-terrorists>. See also "New State Department Grantee Supports 'Resistance,' Partners with Palestinian Islamic Jihad Leaders," *NGO Monitor*, September 27, 2023, at <https://www.ngo-monitor.org/reports/new-state-department-grantee-supports-resistance-partners-with-palestinian-islamic-jihad-leaders/>.

**Question (1):** Although Hamas—a U.S.-designated Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO)—controls Gaza, the United States has continued to send U.S. foreign assistance to Gaza. For each of the following appropriations laws, I request the Department of State and United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to provide the total amount awarded—directly or indirectly—to any entity in Gaza, including whether the entity in Gaza was a recipient or sub recipient:

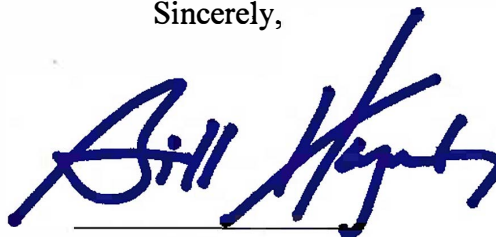
- Amounts provided by Titles III, IV, V, and VI of Division F of Public Law 116-6,
- Amounts provided by Titles III, IV, V, and VI of Division G of Public Law 116-94,
- Amounts provided by Titles III, IV, V, and VI of Division K of Public Law 116-260,
- Amounts provided by Titles III, IV, V, and VI of Division K of Public Law 117-103, and
- Amounts provided by Titles III, IV, V, and VI of Division K of Public Law 117-328.

**Question (2):** For each award provided—directly or indirectly—to an entity in Gaza, including whether the entity in Gaza was a recipient or sub recipient, under the appropriation laws described in question (1), I request the Department of State and USAID to provide:

- the total amount awarded,
- the source of the appropriation,
- whether the amount has been obligated, and
- what amounts remain unexpended.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter of transparency to the U.S. taxpayers.

Sincerely,



Bill Hagerty  
United States Senator