

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4304
June 17, 2024

Committee on Armed Services

Tactical Air and Land Forces

Cyber, Innovative Technologies and
Information Systems

Committee on Oversight and Reform

Economic Growth, Energy Policy, and
Regulatory Affairs

National Security, the Border, and
Foreign Affairs

The Honorable Antony J. Blinken
Secretary
U.S. Department of State
2201 C St. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Blinken:

We write regarding the recently announced \$404 million in additional funding for humanitarian aid to civilians in Gaza, the West Bank, and the region. ¹ While we understand the intent of this package is to provide food, drinking water, education, shelter, and more for civilians in a war zone, we have major concerns that a significant portion of the funds will inevitably end up in the hands of the State Department designated terrorist organization, Hamas.

As you are well aware, the terrorist group Hamas maintains a presence in both the Gaza Strip as well as the West Bank. It is well documented that Hamas has been known to seize humanitarian aid meant for civilians. Hamas uses these funds instead for terrorist activities aimed at killing innocent civilians and advancing their stated goal of the destruction of the State of Israel. ² What's also concerning is that the United Nations organization tasked with overseeing the distribution of aid – the United Nations Relief and Works Agency – has been accused of assisting Hamas. ³ The American people and the international community need assurances that funding for humanitarian aid does not end up funding terrorism.

Israel is an important ally to the United States. It is the Biden Administration's policy to support Israel, and indirect funding for Hamas would prove counterproductive to this mission by prolonging the war and increasing the death toll. Therefore, we request that you please provide to Congress your clear and comprehensive strategy to ensure funding for humanitarian aid will not end up in Hamas' coffers. The Administration's goal of providing aid to civilians impacted by the ongoing conflict is noble but we cannot allow American tax dollars to end up in the hands of terrorists. We will expect a detailed account of your strategy to maintain the integrity of this funding no later than 30 days from the sending of this notice. We also expect the funding to be halted until such a plan is approved and in place.

¹ United States Announces Additional Humanitarian Assistance to Palestinian Civilians in Gaza and the Region - United States Department of State

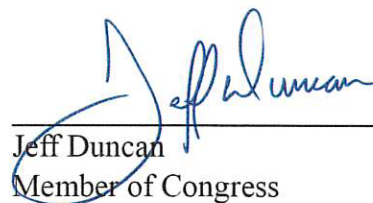
² <https://www.fdd.org/analysis/2024/05/03/hamas-diverts-jordan-aid-convoys-in-gaza/>

³ <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/01/28/world/middleeast/gaza-unrwa-hamas-israel.html>

Sincerely,



Pat Fallon
Member of Congress



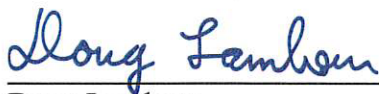
Jeff Duncan
Member of Congress



Claudia Tenney
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Member of Congress



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Brian Babin, D.D.S.
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