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## Congress of the United States

House of Representatives Washington, IC 20515—3221

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HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE

HOUSE PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE

Attorney General of the United States
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20530

Re: Urgent Request for U.S. Investigation of Médecins Sans Frontières under The Anti-Terrorism Act

Dear Attorney General Bondi:

The Honorable Pam Bondi

I am writing to raise serious concerns regarding recent actions by Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), also known as Doctors Without Borders. Recent <u>reporting</u> shows MSF has orchestrated an ongoing media blitz and paid for advertisements accusing the U.S.-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF) of "orchestrated killing" and spreading other inflammatory falsehoods. These claims mirror propaganda continuously pushed by Hamas and threaten to undermine the only large-scale humanitarian food operation currently working in Gaza.

The Anti-Terrorism Act (18 U.S.C. § 2339B) makes clear that no individual or organization may provide material support to a designated terrorist group, including through propaganda. As MSF is using its platform and resources to amplify Hamas-aligned disinformation, that conduct may cross well into unlawful activity. It is unacceptable for an organization operating under the banner of humanitarian relief to promote messaging that aids a terrorist organization and endangers legitimate aid workers on the ground. I urge the Department of Justice to open an immediate investigation into whether MSF's actions constitute a violation of the Anti-Terrorism Act.

Further evidence also shows that they are in fact not neutral in the Gaza conflict and in fact only seem to promote Hamas-supported rhetoric even after the deadly October 7 attack on Israel.

• MSF, which claims to promote moral principles, has made no reference to hostages illegally held by Hamas in Gaza, nor has it campaigned for them to receive medical treatment. At least one hostage was undergoing cancer treatment at the time of her kidnapping, another had his arm blown off by a Hamas grenade at the Nova festival, and a third hostage was kidnapped in her ninth month of pregnancy and reportedly gave birth in captivity. None is included in MSF's "humanitarian" advocacy (NGO Monitor, 11/23/23).

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- MSF's ignoring of Palestinian targeting of Israeli medical facilities and workers is part of
  a larger trend of MSF altogether ignoring Israeli victims. Out of 112 tweets from MSF's
  X account from October 7 to November 19 after the Hamas attack on Israel, not one
  mentions Israeli victims alone; 5 mention both Israelis and Palestinians (NGO Monitor,
  11/23/23)
- MSF has repeatedly faced criticism over the extremist actions and rhetoric of its staffers, raising questions about the organization's neutrality and vetting practices amid the ongoing war.
  - o In June 2024, MSF posted on X condemning the death of staffer Fadi Al-Wadiya. The IDF later confirmed that Al-Wadiya was an Islamic Jihad rocket expert involved in developing the terror group's missiles. (The Times of Israel, 6/26/24)
  - o Another MSF staffer, Dr. Ghassan Abu Sitta, was reported by the French newspaper Le Journal du Dimanche to have publicly called on Palestinians to "fight and die as martyrs." (Le Journal du Dimanche, 3/11/24)

Further, MSF USA is registered as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. That status comes with strict prohibitions on political campaign intervention or partisan advocacy. Running paid advertisements designed to discredit a U.S.-backed aid group cannot reasonably be described as neutral humanitarian communication. If MSF is spending donor funds to push political attacks, it may also be in violation of its nonprofit obligations, and that should be reviewed by your office and referred to the Internal Revenue Service as appropriate.

This is not a matter of routine oversight. It is a matter of national security, the protection of U.S. taxpayers and donors, and the defense of legitimate humanitarian operations in one of the most dangerous conflict zones in the world. President Trump has made clear that the United States will never tolerate support for terrorist organizations in any form, and this case demands that same clarity and resolve.

Thank you for your urgent attention to this matter. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Elise M. Stefanik

Chairwoman

House Republican Leadership