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America, the nation's  
largest Orthodox Jewish  
umbrella organization  
founded in 1898.*

National Headquarters  
11 Broadway  
New York, NY 10004



December 12, 2007

Dear Chairman Ackerman, Ranking Member Pence,

I write to you on behalf of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America - the nation's largest Orthodox Jewish umbrella organization, with regard to continuing US foreign aid to the Palestinian Authority.

Stewardship of our taxpayer's dollars must go hand in hand with careful consideration of America's national interest in providing any foreign aid. We have serious concerns that the billions of dollars sent to the PA since the Oslo Accords have been wasted or misappropriated.

The Palestinian Authority has repeatedly failed its threshold commitments to warrant receipt of international, and particularly, US assistance. First, under Yasser Arafat and now under Mahmoud Abbas, they have time and again pledged to crack down on Palestinian terrorist groups, whether factions of Fatah or others, and to end violence against Israeli innocents.

Violence and terrorist attacks against Israel continue unabated. Just days before the Annapolis peace summit, PA policemen killed an Israeli civilian.

In addition:

- Demonization of Israel and the United States continues on PA funded media, where *imams* preach Death to the Jews and where even a Mickey Mouse lookalike is enlisted to teach children hatred.
- The same can be said for the hate filled textbooks used in Palestinian Authority run schools.
- PA and Muslim *Waqf* officials continue to deny Jewish historical and religious claims to Jerusalem, including the Old City, the historic capital of King David, and deny the existence of the Jewish Holy Temples that stood on the Temple Mount, as well as claiming the Western Wall, the Kotel, is not a Jewish holy site.
- The PA leadership still refuses to acknowledge Israel as a Jewish state, and the historic homeland of the Jewish people.

Given these "facts on the ground" it seems certain that any additional US funding is both an imprudent use of scarce taxpayer dollars and is not in the material, strategic or security interests of the United States as it seeks to create regional stability.

Unless sufficient conditions ensure that new funding appropriated to the PA would be used to create or support civic institutions that are democratic, transparent and free of corruption, as well as guaranteeing that the hatred, incitement, violence and terror against Israel and Jews cease, we urge the Congress to faithfully execute its role as overseer of the nation's purse by refusing new appropriations.

Respectfully yours,

Nathan J. Diament