

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 9, 2014

The Honorable John F. Kerry
Secretary of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC

Dear Secretary Kerry,

The decision by Mahmoud Abbas to form a unity government with the United States designated Foreign Terrorist Organization Hamas is a deeply disturbing development. While we understand that chosen members of the government may identify only as "technocrats", the government itself still received the full approval and endorsement of Hamas.

United States law clearly dictates that no U.S. funding will go to "any entity effectively controlled by Hamas, any power-sharing government of which Hamas is a member, or that results from an agreement with Hamas and over which Hamas exercises undue influence." Furthermore, throughout the reconciliation process with Fatah, senior Hamas members reiterated – even just last week – that the terrorist group has no intention of living up to or abiding by the Quartet principles. Any decision to work with this unity government could be extraordinarily counterproductive in our efforts both to promote peace and to help support the security of our ally Israel.

Accordingly, we request the opportunity to hear directly from the Administration at a hearing of the Middle East and North Africa Subcommittee of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs as to (i) the Administration's consideration of Hamas' role in the unity government in choosing to work with that interim government, (ii) the Administration's analysis of U.S law and its decision with respect to continuing to work with the interim government, and (iii) how the Administration plans to evaluate the actions of this interim government and what benchmarks will be in place that could impact future consideration of assistance to it.

We thank you for your immediate attention to this matter, and look forward to your timely response.

Respectfully,



Theodore E. Deutch
Ranking Member, Middle East and North
Africa Subcommittee



Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Chairman, Middle East and North Africa
Subcommittee