

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-6074

MINORITY (202) 225-6051

<https://oversight.house.gov>

October 27, 2025

His Excellency António Guterres
Secretary-General of the United Nations
United Nations
46th Street & 1st Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10017

Dear Secretary-General Guterres:

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is investigating the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) actions in response to credible reports that UNRWA staff members participated in the brutal October 7, 2023, terrorist attacks carried out by Hamas against Israel.¹ The Committee requests certain documents and information related to concerning reports that U.S. taxpayer funds sent to UNRWA have been linked to terrorism. This request follows UNRWA's repeated failure to adequately respond to oversight requests from the U.S. government.²

On October 7, 2023, Hamas—a U.S.-designated foreign terrorist organization—launched a coordinated attack on Israel by land, sea, and air, killing approximately 1,400 Israelis and at least 32 American civilians.³ Between 200 and 250 hostages, including women and children, were taken to Gaza.⁴ Intelligence reports reveal that UNRWA employees were involved in the attack.⁵ Even more concerning, roughly 10 percent of the agency's 12,000 staff in Gaza were reportedly affiliated with Islamist militant groups, including Hamas.⁶

On October 13, 2025, as a direct result of President Trump's broader 20-point peace plan, Hamas released the remaining 20 living Israeli hostages who had been held in brutal captivity for more than two years. The bodies of four of the remaining 24 slain hostages were also returned.⁷ The remains of the two hostages who were American citizens are still in Gaza.

¹ UN Affairs, *UN completes investigation on UNRWA staff*, UNITED NATIONS (Aug. 5, 2024).

² *Investigative Summary: USAID OIG's Investigative Work to Prevent UNRWA Staff Associated With Hamas From Circulating to Other U.S. Government-Funded Aid Organizations*, USAID OIG (Apr. 14, 2025).

³ Christopher M. Blanchard et al., CONG. RESEARCH SERV., R47754, ISRAEL AND HAMAS OCTOBER 2023 CONFLICT: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ).

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ Carrie Keller-Lynn & David Luhnnow, *Intelligence Reveals Details of U.N. Agency Staff's Links to Oct. 7 Attack*, WALL ST. J. (updated Jan. 29, 2025).

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ Rachel Wolf, *Israel names two of four dead hostages returned by Hamas, how they died*, FOX NEWS (Oct. 14, 2025).

Despite repeated U.S. oversight inquiries, UNRWA, either on its own or at the direction of UN Headquarters, has refused to provide necessary documentation related to its staff's involvement in this atrocity.⁸ For example, although the U.S. Agency for International Development's Office of Inspector General (USAID OIG) has requested pertinent documentation related to the termination of several UNRWA employees implicated in the October 7th attack, the UN's Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), at UNRWA's request, has redacted valuable information, which further obfuscates the extent of current and former UNRWA staff's role in these attacks.⁹ This is unacceptable, as the lack of transparency greatly undermines U.S. efforts to assess risk and obstructs the oversight responsibilities of Congress.

Since the UN's founding in 1945, the United States has been its largest contributor, today providing 22 percent of the UN general budget, 25 percent of its peacekeeping budget, and 40 percent of its humanitarian budget.¹⁰ This has included substantial funding to UNRWA.¹¹ Since its establishment, the agency has received most of its financial support from the United States, which contributed \$422 million to UNRWA in 2023 and \$343 million in 2022.¹² USAID OIG has repeatedly cautioned U.S. federal agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and UN agencies about risks associated with aid being diverted to Hamas.¹³ In February, 2025, due to ongoing concerns regarding the connection between UNRWA and terrorist entities such as Hamas, President Trump issued an Executive Order terminating U.S. funding of UNRWA.¹⁴ President Trump's historic peacekeeping initiative was successful¹⁵, but it raises serious questions about the UN's lack of effort in facilitating this process and whether it deserves to receive any continued funding from U.S. taxpayers.

Without full accountability, we cannot confirm that implicated individuals—regardless of whether UNRWA or the UN generally believes they are culpable—have been removed from their positions or that vetting mechanisms are in place to prevent future threats. The risk remains that current or former UNRWA employees tied to terrorism could resurface within other UN entities or NGOs funded by U.S. tax dollars. The requested documents and communications are required for verification that no UN entity or NGO receiving American taxpayer funds employs individuals affiliated with, or supporting, terrorist entities.

⁸ Memorandum from Office of Inspector General, U.S. Agency for International Development (May 13, 2025) (on file with the Committee).

⁹ Communications on file with the Committee.

¹⁰ Allison Lombardo, *What Is the U.S. Posture Toward the United Nations?* CENTER FOR STRATEGIC & INTERNATIONAL STUDIES (Sept. 25, 2025).

¹¹ *2024 Overall donor ranking: Confirmed pledges and received (cash and in-kind) as of 31 December 2024 in USD*, UNRWA (last visited Oct. 1, 2025).

¹² Press Release, UNRWA, UNRWA USA Ramps Up Focus on the Restoration of US Government Funding for Humanitarian Aid including for Gaza (Mar. 4, 2025).

¹³ OFF. OF INSPECTOR GEN., U.S. AGENCY FOR INT'L DEV., USAID OIG'S GAZA-RELATED OVERSIGHT WORK (July 30, 2025).

¹⁴ Exec. Order No. 14199, 90 Fed. Reg. 9275 (Feb. 10, 2025).

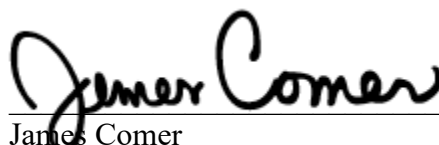
¹⁵ *United Nations Charter, Chapter VI: Pacific Settlement of Disputes*, UNITED NATIONS.

To assist the Committee's oversight of this matter, we request the following information, covering the period of October 1, 2023, to present unless otherwise indicated, as soon as possible but no later than November 10, 2025:

1. A fully unredacted copy of the OIOS investigation into allegations of its staff members' involvement in the October 7, 2023, attack on Israel.¹⁶
2. Fully unredacted copies of all letters, notices, or other communication sent by UNRWA to its staff members accused of assisting with or directly participating in the October 7, 2023, attack on Israel who were "terminated in the interest of the Agency" following the investigation by OIOS.¹⁷
3. Documents sufficient to show all UNRWA employees who have been investigated due to possible affiliation with Hamas or any other terrorist organization or entity between October 1, 2023, to the present.
4. All documents provided to the UNRWA Advisory Commission in November 2024 demonstrating how UNRWA is developing a layered approach that assesses risk and leverages collaborative partnerships to ensure that militants of any kind do not work within the UN system.
5. All documents demonstrating how UNRWA ensures that any former employee applying for a position at another UN agency was not terminated from UNRWA.

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is the principal oversight committee of the U.S. House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate "any matter" at "any time" under House Rule X. To arrange for delivery of documents, or to ask any related follow up questions, please contact the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform Majority staff at (202) 225-5074. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



James Comer
Chairman

cc: The Honorable Robert Garcia, Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

¹⁶ Philippe Lazzarini, Investigation Completed: Allegations on UNRWA Staff Participation in the 7 October Attacks, UNRWA (Aug. 5, 2024).

¹⁷ *Id.*