That Man Behind The Curtain: The Case for Suspending Aid to the Palestinian Authority

By Vance Trefethen

OBSERVATION 1. Our DEFINITIONS 3

OBSERVATION 2. BACKGROUND. 3

FACT 1. Two rivals. Hamas and Fatah have been competing for power in the Palestinian territories 3

FACT 2. Unity Government. The two factions have formed a new unity government for the Palestinian Authority 3

OBSERVATION 3. INHERENCY: the politics of the Status Quo. Two FACTS: 4

FACT 1. US Acceptance. The Obama Administration will accept and aid the new Palestinian government 4

FACT 2. $500 million. The US will give $500 million per year in foreign aid to the Palestinian unity government 4

OBSERVATION 4. HAMAS IN POWER IS REALLY BAD. 4

1) Hamas refuses peace talks. 2) They won’t renounce violence. 3) They deny Israel’s right to exist 4

That leads to the IMPACT: Working with the unity government will set back peace and security 5

And that leads to the CONCLUSION: The US should refuse to fund a Palestinian regime involving Hamas 5

OBSERVATION 5. The PLAN 5

OBSERVATION 6. The ADVANTAGES 5

ADVANTAGE 1. Stop fueling terrorism. We should stop aid in order to stop fueling Palestinian terrorism 5

ADVANTAGE 2. Promoting peace. The peace process requires pressuring the Palestinian Authority to renounce Hamas 6

2A Evidence: Suspend Palestinian Aid 7

OPENING QUOTES 7

George Washington 7

Better ways to spend ½ billion dollars 7

DEFINITIONS / TOPICALITY 7

We defined country as a “state” (1AC): Palestine has been called a State by the vast majority of UN member nations 7

UN vote shows Palestine has been recognized as a State 7

INHERENCY 8

Palestinian unity government tries to evade US ban on aid to Hamas 8

“Palestinian government are ‘technocrats’, not Hamas” – Response: They have the full backing of Hamas 8

US State Department will work with the Palestinian unity government 8

US State Department will continue to aid Palestinian unity government 8

US plans $440 million in aid to the Palestinian Authority 9

US will give $440 million to the Palestinian Authority and will work with the new unity government 9

US aid to Hamas is prohibited, but waivers are allowed. 9

Obama uses waivers to authorize aid to the Palestinian Authority 9

HARMS / SIGNIFICANCE 10

Hamas is a terrorist organization 10

Hamas commits human rights violations and shoots rockets into Israel 10

Palestinian unity government with Hamas diminishes the prospects for peace 10

Palestinian government will not negotiate peace: They’re partnering with terrorists who want Israel’s destruction 10

SOLVENCY / ADVOCACY 11

Hamas in the Palestinian government means there’s no further justification for US aid 11

US should use its aid as leverage to improve Palestinian Authority behavior to move toward peace 11

US should end aid to Palestinian government if Hamas joins without renouncing terrorism 11

Advocacy for the standards Hamas must meet before we should deal with it: the “Quartet” standards 11

DISADVANTAGE RESPONSES 12

“Security training” – Response: Not working. Security goals are unmet and security personnel are involved in crime 12

“PA essential to peace” – Response: 20 years of failure. We should question why we are funding the P.A. 12

“PA collapse / loss of security” – Response: Israel would intervene 12

“PA Collapse without US aid” – Response: Non-unique. Collapse happens anyway because Kerry’s talks failed 12

Palestinian negotiator said PA will collapse if John Kerry’s negotiations fail 12

Kerry’s negotiations failed in April 2014 13

“PA Collapse” – Response: Non-unique. Collapse will happen anyway due to Israeli settlements 13

PA will collapse as long as Israel keeps on building settlements on Palestinian land 13

Israel will keep on building settlements 13

“PA collapse” – Response: Good, let it collapse. P.A. funds pensions for terrorists 13

In the classic movie, Dorothy’s dog Toto pulls back the curtain to reveal a fool shouting into a microphone, pretending to be the Great and Powerful Wizard of Oz. “Pay no attention to that man behind the curtain,” he yells, but it’s too late, the game is up. Today we pull back the curtain and reveal what’s really going on in the deceptive world of Palestinian politics, as we affirm that The United States should significantly reform its policy toward one or more countries in the Middle East. We’ll show you how a happy and peaceful Palestinian unity government appears on the outside, but a dangerous terrorist organization is calling the shots behind the curtain. Let’s start with…

OBSERVATION 1. Our DEFINITIONS

**Significant**: “large enough to be noticed or have an effect” *(Merriam-Webster Online Dict. 2014* [*http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/significant*](http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/significant)*)*

**Policy**: “a high-level overall plan embracing the general goals and acceptable procedures especially of a governmental body” *(Merriam-Webster Online Dict. 2014* [*http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/policy?show=0&t=1402599657*](http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/policy?show=0&t=1402599657)*)*

**Country: “**a political state or nation or its territory” *(Merriam-Webster Online Dict. 2014 http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/country)*

OBSERVATION 2. BACKGROUND.

In order to understand the current situation involving our case today, we need to step you through some background information about the history of the Palestinian Authority. We do this in 2 FACTS:

FACT 1. Two rivals. Hamas and Fatah have been competing for power in the Palestinian territories

Council on Foreign Relations 2012. (Jonathan Masters, deputy editor) updated 27 Nov 2012 “What is Hamas?” <http://www.cfr.org/israel/hamas/p8968>)

“Hamas is the largest and most influential Palestinian militant movement that, along with the more moderate Fatah party, serves as one of the two primary Palestinian political factions. Founded in 1987 during the first Intifada, Hamas is a Sunni Islamist group and a U.S.-designated foreign terrorist organization violently opposed to the state of Israel. Hamas, an acronym for Harakat al-Muqawana al-Islamiya (Islamic Resistance Movement), has exercised de facto rule over the Gaza Strip since wresting the territory from its rival Fatah, which governs the West Bank, in 2007.”

FACT 2. Unity Government. The two factions have formed a new unity government for the Palestinian Authority

WASHINGTON POST 2014. (journalists William Booth and Anne Gearan) 2 June 2014 “Palestinians form new unity government that includes Hamas” <http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle_east/palestinians-form-new-unity-government-including-hamas/2014/06/02/c681d5c6-ea46-11e3-9f5c-9075d5508f0a_story.html>

Palestinians overcame last-minute squabbles to form a new “government of national unity” Monday, backed by the Islamist militant group Hamas, which the United States and Israel have branded a terrorist organization. The announcement of the transitional government, led by the moderate Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah and with ministries run mostly by technocrats, represents a significant step toward ending a seven-year feud between the Palestinian political factions that separately control the West Bank and the [Gaza Strip](http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/worldviews/wp/2012/11/21/9-questions-about-israel-gaza-you-were-too-embarrassed-to-ask/).

END QUOTE. Now let’s look at US policy toward these events in…

OBSERVATION 3. INHERENCY: the politics of the Status Quo. Two FACTS:

FACT 1. US Acceptance. The Obama Administration will accept and aid the new Palestinian government

Tony Dvorin 2014. ( journalist) 2 June 2014 “US Vows to 'Work With' Palestinian Arab 'Unity' Government“ <http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/181324#.U6cuqPl_uSq> (ellipses original; brackets added)

Washington said Monday it will work with the Palestinian Arab unity government and maintain aid, while "watching closely" to ensure it respects the principle of non-violence, AFP [Agence France Presse] reports. State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said Washington believes Palestinian Authority (PA) Chairman Mahmoud Abbas has "formed an interim technocratic government... that does not include members affiliated with Hamas." "With what we know now, we will work with this government," Psaki said.

FACT 2. $500 million. The US will give $500 million per year in foreign aid to the Palestinian unity government

JERUSALEM POST 2014. (journalists Tovah Lazaroff and Michael Wilner) 2 June 2014 “Israel: US sanctioning terrorism by okaying ties with Palestinian unity government “ <http://www.jpost.com/Diplomacy-and-Politics/US-will-work-with-Palestinian-unity-government-355164> (brackets in original)

Secretary of State John Kerry phoned Netanyahu just moments before US State Department Jen Psaki told reporters at the daily briefing in Washington that, “based on what we know now, we intend to work with this government.” Psaki said the Obama administration has no intention of cutting off financial aid to the Palestinian Authority, which amounts to roughly $500 million a year – pivotal funding for the cash-strapped organization.

END QUOTE. Now let’s see why this is bad in…

OBSERVATION 4. HAMAS IN POWER IS REALLY BAD.

We prove this with 3 FACTS, an IMPACT, and a CONCLUSION. The problem with Hamas gaining power is summarized in three FACTS, all of which come from a single piece of evidence. Those 3 FACTS are:

1) Hamas refuses peace talks. 2) They won’t renounce violence. 3) They deny Israel’s right to exist

BOSTON GLOBE 2014. (Bryan Bender and Matt Viser, journalists) 25 Apr 2014 “After Palestinian ‘unity pact,’ Israel halts talks“ <http://www.bostonglobe.com/news/nation/2014/04/24/israel-walks-away-from-peace-talks-after-palestinian-overture-terrorist-group/rIeDkOLQLPdaF9jRCnB13I/story.html>

Hamas, the largest Palestinian militant group, was founded in 1987 during the so-called first Intifada, or uprising, against Israeli occupation. Backed by its so-called Qassam Brigades, it is now the de facto ruler in the Gaza Strip, the slice of territory Israel also seized in 1967 on the Mediterranean coast and is separated from the larger West Bank by the rest of Israel. Hamas has never taken part in peace talks. The organization has repeatedly refused to accept the internationally agreed-upon principles for Arab-Israeli peace, including the renunciation of violence and recognition of Israel’s right to exist.

That leads to the IMPACT: Working with the unity government will set back peace and security

Rep. Theodore Deutch and Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen 2014. (Deutch – Democratic congressman from Florida; Ranking Member of the House Middle East & North Africa Subcommittee. Ros\_Lehtinen – Republican congressman from Florida; Chair of the House Middle East & North Africa Subcommittee) 9 June 2014 PRESS RELEASE: Deutch Sends Letter to Kerry on Concerns with U.S. Response to Hamas-backed Palestinian Unity Government <http://teddeutch.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=383731>

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.

And that leads to the CONCLUSION: The US should refuse to fund a Palestinian regime involving Hamas

Dr. [Nile Gardiner](http://www.heritage.org/about/staff/g/nile-gardiner)  and [James Phillips](http://www.heritage.org/about/staff/p/james-phillips) 2006. (Gardiner – PhD history Yale Univ. Director, Margaret Thatcher Center for Freedom, Heritage Foundation. Phillips - Master's Degree and M.A.L.D. in International Security Studies from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts Univ; senior research fellow for Middle Eastern affairs at Heritage Foundation ) 6 Feb 2006 Congress Should Withhold Funds from the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) <http://www.heritage.org/research/reports/2006/02/congress-should-withhold-funds-from-the-un-relief-and-works-agency-for-palestine-refugees-unrwa>

The victory of Hamas in the recent Palestinian elections should force a wholesale reappraisal of U.S. and international funding for the Palestinian Authority (PA). Hamas is one of the most brutal and barbaric terrorist movements in modern history, being responsible for the murder of hundreds of Israeli, Palestinian, and American civilians and the maiming of thousands more. The United States and the European Union should refuse to fund a Palestinian regime that does not recognize the state of Israel and that actively supports the use of terrorism.

END QUOTE. We do exactly that in…

OBSERVATION 5. The PLAN

1. Congress votes to cut off aid to the Palestinian Authority until either A) Hamas is no longer involved in the P.A. government; or B) Hamas renounces violence, accepts past Palestinian-Israeli agreements, and recognizes Israel’s right to exist.  
2. Enforcement through the State Department by normal means.  
3. Plan takes effect the day after an Affirmative ballot.  
4. No funding needed - Net reduction in federal spending since aid is suspended.  
5. Affirmative speeches may clarify the Plan as needed.  
Now let’s see why this is the right policy in…

OBSERVATION 6. The ADVANTAGES

ADVANTAGE 1. Stop fueling terrorism. We should stop aid in order to stop fueling Palestinian terrorism

Ari Yashar 2014. (journalist) “Danon Warns ‘US Aid Now Directly Funds Terror’ 2 June 2014 <http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/181306#.U6cwF_l_uSo>

Deputy Defense Minister Danny Danon (Likud) condemned the [swearing in](http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/181301" \t "_blank) of the new Fatah and Hamas unity government on Monday, which took place in Ramallah. "The replacement of ministers in the Palestinian government is just a pretty wrapping for the terrorist attacks that were conducted and will be conducted under their protection," declared Danon. "Now, all aid given to the Palestinians by the United States and other countries directly aids terror attacks against the state of Israel," warned the minister. Danon noted that he has recently met with American Congressmen, asking them to suspend [financial aid](http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/175803" \t "_blank) to the Palestinian Authority (PA) in response to the new unity government with the terrorist organization Hamas.

ADVANTAGE 2. Promoting peace. The peace process requires pressuring the Palestinian Authority to renounce Hamas

JERUSALEM POST 2014. (journalists Tovah Lazaroff and Michael Wilner) 2 June 2014 “Israel: US sanctioning terrorism by okaying ties with Palestinian unity government “ <http://www.jpost.com/Diplomacy-and-Politics/US-will-work-with-Palestinian-unity-government-355164> (brackets in original)

Israeli officials charged that the United States had sanctioned terrorism after hearing late Monday night that Washington planned to establish ties with the newly sworn-in Fatah-Hamas unity government. “If the US administration wants to advance peace, it should be calling on [Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud] Abbas to end his pact with Hamas and return to peace talks with Israel. Instead it is enabling Abbas to believe that it is acceptable to form a government with a terrorist organization,” Israeli officials said in a sharply worded statement to the media.

2A Evidence: Suspend Palestinian Aid

OPENING QUOTES

George Washington

George Washington, Farewell Address. <http://natsummit.org/transcripts/james_david.htm> (ellipses in original)

“… a passionate attachment of one nation for another produces a variety of evils."

Better ways to spend ½ billion dollars

Michael Freund 2014. (served as Deputy Communications Director in the Israeli Prime Minister's Office under Netanyahu; MBA in finance from Columbia Univ.) JERUSALEM POST 5 June 2014 “End US aid to the Palestinians” <http://www.michaelfreund.org/14860/palestinians-us-aid>

For at a time when Washington is battling to reduce its enormous national debt, there are surely better ways to spend half a billion dollars each year than by propping up a Palestinian terrorist entity.

DEFINITIONS / TOPICALITY

We defined country as a “state” (1AC): Palestine has been called a State by the vast majority of UN member nations

Analysis: Note that the resolution doesn’t say “one or more countries recognized by the U.S.” but merely “one or more countries.” It leaves the definition of a country up to the debaters in the round.

UN General Assembly Dept. of Public Information 2012. General Assembly Votes Overwhelmingly to Accord Palestine ‘Non-Member Observer State’ Status in United Nations 29 Nov 2012 <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2012/ga11317.doc.htm>

Voting by an overwhelming majority — 138 in favour to 9 against (Canada, Czech Republic, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Panama, Palau, United States), with 41 abstentions — the General Assembly today accorded Palestine non-Member Observer State status in the United Nations. “The moment has arrived for the world to say clearly:  enough of aggression, settlements and occupation,” said Mahmoud Abbas, President of the Palestinian Authority, as he called on the 193-member body to “issue a birth certificate of the reality of the State of Palestine”.  Indeed, following Israel’s latest aggression against the Gaza Strip, the international community now faced “the last chance” to save the long elusive two-State solution, he said, adding:  “the window of opportunity is narrowing and time is quickly running out”.

UN vote shows Palestine has been recognized as a State

TIMES OF ISRAEL 2013. “Kerry refers to country of Palestine” 26 July 2013 <http://www.timesofisrael.com/kerry-refers-to-country-of-palestine/#ixzz3AHPohmUR>

Last November, the UN General Assembly voted overwhelmingly to upgrade the Palestinian delegation’s status to that of a nonmember observer state, thereby granting de facto recognition of Palestinian statehood. The US voted against the move at the UN, along with only a handful of other countries, including Israel.

INHERENCY

Palestinian unity government tries to evade US ban on aid to Hamas

WASHINGTON POST 2014. (journalists William Booth and Anne Gearan) 2 June 2014 “Palestinians form new unity government that includes Hamas” <http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle_east/palestinians-form-new-unity-government-including-hamas/2014/06/02/c681d5c6-ea46-11e3-9f5c-9075d5508f0a_story.html>

The announcement of the transitional government, led by the moderate Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah and with ministries run mostly by technocrats, represents a significant step toward ending a seven-year feud between the Palestinian political factions that separately control the West Bank and the [Gaza Strip](http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/worldviews/wp/2012/11/21/9-questions-about-israel-gaza-you-were-too-embarrassed-to-ask/). It also appears to skirt, barely, U.S. prohibitions on aid to a Palestinian government that has “undue” Hamas presence or influence. The Obama administration had worked behind the scenes to suggest terms for the new coalition government that would not trigger the U.S. ban, reasoning that the money helps preserve American leverage.

“Palestinian government are ‘technocrats’, not Hamas” – Response: They have the full backing of Hamas

Rep. Theodore Deutch and Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen 2014. (Deutch – Democrat congressman from Florida; Ranking Member of the House Middle East & North Africa Subcommittee. Ros\_Lehtinen – Republican congressman from Florida; Chair of the House Middle East & North Africa Subcommittee) 9 June 2014 PRESS RELEASE: Deutch Sends Letter to Kerry on Concerns with U.S. Response to Hamas-backed Palestinian Unity Government <http://teddeutch.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=383731>

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.

US State Department will work with the Palestinian unity government

WASHINGTON POST 2014. (journalists William Booth and Anne Gearan) 2 June 2014 “Palestinians form new unity government that includes Hamas” <http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle_east/palestinians-form-new-unity-government-including-hamas/2014/06/02/c681d5c6-ea46-11e3-9f5c-9075d5508f0a_story.html>

“At this point, it appears that President Abbas has formed an interim technocratic government that does not include ministers affiliated with Hamas,” State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said. “Moving forward, we will be judging this government by its actions. Based on what we know now, we intend to work with this government, but we’ll be watching closely to ensure that it upholds the principles that President Abbas reiterated today.”

US State Department will continue to aid Palestinian unity government

JERUSALEM POST 2014. (journalist Michael Wilner) 10 June 2014 US Senator Menendez vows response from Congress to Palestinian unity government <http://www.jpost.com/Diplomacy-and-Politics/Menendez-vows-response-from-Congress-to-PA-unity-government-355803>

Last week, hours after a reconciliation government was formed in a ceremony in Ramallah, the State Department declared its intent to continue aid to the PA, noting that the new cabinet retained many of the same technocratic officials unaffiliated with either party.

US plans $440 million in aid to the Palestinian Authority

NEW YORK TIMES 2014. ( journalist Jodi Rudoren) 1 June 2014 « With New Palestinian Government Come Many Questions, and Some Answers” <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/06/03/world/middleeast/new-palestinian-government.html?action=click&contentCollection=Middle%20East&module=RelatedCoverage&region=Marginalia&pgtype=article>

The European Union declared on May 12 that it would continue financial and political support to a Palestinian government of independent ministers as long as it adhered to international principles, including recognizing Israel and renouncing violence. The State Department has made similar statements, though it is likely to face pressure from pro-Israel forces in Congress. Language in the appropriations bill, which allocated $440 million to the Palestinian Authority, [bans Washington from funding](http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/mideast/RS22967.pdf) any government in which Hamas has “undue influence.”

US will give $440 million to the Palestinian Authority and will work with the new unity government

NEW YORK TIMES 2014. (journalists Jodi Rudoren and Isabel Kershner) 1 June 2014 “Israel Warns Against Embracing Newly Reconciled Palestinian Government” <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/06/02/world/middleeast/israel-warns-against-embracing-newly-reconciled-palestinian-government.html?_r=0>

The United States is scheduled to provide $440 million to the Palestinian Authority this year, but it is barred from funding any “government that includes Hamas as a member, or that results from an agreement with Hamas and over which Hamas exercises ‘undue influence,’ ” according to the Congressional Research Service, unless the president provides a waiver. The State Department — like the European Union — has indicated openness to dealing with the new government so long as it follows Mr. Abbas’s line.

US aid to Hamas is prohibited, but waivers are allowed.

James Phillips 2014. (Master's Degree and a M.A.L.D. in International Security Studies from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts Univ; senior research fellow for Middle Eastern affairs at the Douglas and Sarah Allison Center for Foreign Policy Studies at Heritage Foundation) <http://dailysignal.com/2014/06/06/suspend-u-s-aid-hamas-backed-palestinian-unity-government/>

U.S. aid to Hamas is prohibited under law.  The Palestinian Anti-Terrorism Act of 2006 bars U.S. funds from going to Hamas, Hamas-controlled entities or a Palestinian government that includes Hamas as a member. Section 7040 of the 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act also restricts U.S. aid to the Palestinian Authority from going to “Hamas or any Hamas-controlled or power-sharing government unless the President certifies to Congress that it has accepted Israel’s right to exist and is adhering to previous agreements with the United States, Israel, and the international community.” Both laws allow the president to issue a waiver for national security reasons, which gives the administration another route to continue its failed engagement with the Palestinian Authority, which is drifting away from negotiations with Israel, instead preferring reconciliation with Hamas.

Obama uses waivers to authorize aid to the Palestinian Authority

Jim Zanotti 2013. (specialist in Middle Eastern Affairs with Congressional Research Service) 30 Sept 2013 “U.S. Foreign Aid to the Palestinians” <http://fas.org/sgp/crs/mideast/RS22967.pdf>

During the final year of President George W. Bush’s Administration, President Bush issued waivers providing $300 million in direct budgetary assistance to the PA. President Barack Obama has followed the precedent Bush established by authorizing a total of $898 million in direct budgetary assistance, as follows:   
• In July 2009, $200 million in ESF money were transferred to the PA in the wake of a presidential waiver issued by President Obama.  
• In December 2009, $75 million in budgetary assistance were provided to the PA under the July presidential waiver as an advance on FY2010 ESF funds, pursuant to a continuing resolution (later appropriated pursuant to P.L. 111-117).   
• In April 2010, another $75 million in budgetary assistance from the ESF account were provided to the PA following a presidential waiver.  
• In October 2010, $150 million in budgetary assistance were provided to the PA following a presidential waiver as an advance on FY2011 ESF funds, pursuant to the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2011 (P.L. 111-242).

HARMS / SIGNIFICANCE

Hamas is a terrorist organization

Ari Yashar 2014. (journalist) “Danon Warns ‘US Aid Now Directly Funds Terror’ 2 June 2014 <http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/181306#.U6cwF_l_uSo> (brackets added)

It is worth noting that Hamas is on the EU's [list of terrorist organizations](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2009:346:0058:0060:EN:PDF" \t "_blank). That listing specifically includes both "Hamas" and "Hamas-Izz al-Din al-Qassem," meaning that both the military and governmental branches of Hamas are recognized as terror groups by the EU [European Union].

Hamas commits human rights violations and shoots rockets into Israel

Lawrence J. Haas 2014.  (former communications director for Vice President Al Gore, is a senior fellow at the American Foreign Policy Council) Don't Be Fooled by the Hamas-Fatah Union 3 June 2014 US NEWS & WORLD REPORT <http://www.usnews.com/opinion/blogs/world-report/2014/06/03/fatah-hamas-unity-puts-lie-to-us-middle-east-peace-efforts> (brackets in original)

The Fatah-Hamas civil war not only left the Palestinian territories divided. It left Hamas free to pursue a strict Islamist state on its narrow strip of land on the Mediterranean, while harassing, jailing, torturing and killing its opponents. Over the last seven years, Hamas has launched, or permitted other terrorist groups to launch, thousands of rockets into southern Israel, terrorizing the Israeli men, women and children of Sderot and elsewhere. In fact, the rockets continued to fly in recent days as Fatah and Hamas came together.

Palestinian unity government with Hamas diminishes the prospects for peace

Rep. Theodore Deutch 2014. (Democrat congressman from Florida; Ranking Member of the House Middle East & North Africa Subcommittee) 2 June 2014 Congressman Deutch: PA Unity with Hamas Undermines Prospect for Peace <http://teddeutch.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=383294>

"Today’s decision by President Abbas to swear in a unity government backed by Hamas is a deeply disturbing step away from the pursuit of peace. Hamas is a designated terrorist group that has consistently refused to accept the international Quartet conditions of recognizing Israel, renouncing violence, and accepting all previous negotiated diplomatic agreements. Since reconciliation talks were announced in April, Hamas' leaders have continued to declare they will never recognize Israel. Unfortunately, this decision to unite with Hamas only further diminishes the prospects for peace."

Palestinian government will not negotiate peace: They’re partnering with terrorists who want Israel’s destruction

Lawrence J. Haas, 2014. (former communications director for Vice President Al Gore, is a senior fellow at the American Foreign Policy Council) Don't Be Fooled by the Hamas-Fatah Union 3 June 2014 US NEWS & WORLD REPORT <http://www.usnews.com/opinion/blogs/world-report/2014/06/03/fatah-hamas-unity-puts-lie-to-us-middle-east-peace-efforts> (brackets in original)

Indeed, as this newly unified Palestinian leadership makes abundantly clear, the far more fundamental problem is broad Palestinian rejection of Israel to begin with and, with that, continuing Palestinian hopes of a new Palestine “from the [Jordan] River to the [Mediterranean] Sea.” Almost certainly, apologists for the U.S. approach to Israeli-Palestinian peace-making, whether in the administration or outside it, will explain that the Fatah-Hamas agreement is something that it isn’t. They’ll tout the new government as a sign of Hamas’ moderation, or they’ll predict that a governing role will force Hamas to moderate its approach to Israel, or they’ll explain that Abbas’ willingness to team with Hamas proves his desire for a peace that includes both the West Bank and Gaza. Don’t believe any of it. Abbas, the former top aide to Palestinian terror mastermind Yasser Arafat, is now partnering with a terrorist group that remains dedicated to Israel’s destruction.

SOLVENCY / ADVOCACY

Hamas in the Palestinian government means there’s no further justification for US aid

James Phillips 2011. (Master's Degree and a M.A.L.D. in International Security Studies from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts Univ; senior research fellow for Middle Eastern affairs at the Douglas and Sarah Allison Center for Foreign Policy Studies at Heritage Foundation) Promoting Peace? Reexamining U.S. Aid to the Palestinian Authority, Part II, 14 Sept 2011 <http://www.heritage.org/research/testimony/2011/09/promoting-peace-reexamining-us-aid-to-the-palestinian-authority-part-ii>

The Palestinian Authority’s relationship with Hamas and its ongoing efforts to include Hamas in a ruling coalition under a May 2011 power-sharing agreement raise disturbing questions about the long-term intentions of the Palestinian Authority and casts doubt on its commitment to negotiate a genuine peace with Israel. By consorting with Hamas terrorists, the Palestinian Authority is violating the Oslo accords and destroying the rationale for continued American aid.

US should use its aid as leverage to improve Palestinian Authority behavior to move toward peace

James Phillips 2011. (Master's Degree and a M.A.L.D. in International Security Studies from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts Univ; senior research fellow for Middle Eastern affairs at the Douglas and Sarah Allison Center for Foreign Policy Studies at Heritage Foundation) Promoting Peace? Reexamining U.S. Aid to the Palestinian Authority, Part II, 14 Sept 2011 <http://www.heritage.org/research/testimony/2011/09/promoting-peace-reexamining-us-aid-to-the-palestinian-authority-part-ii>

The bottom line is that the United States must block any effort to create a Palestinian state that sponsors terrorism or seeks to make an end run around negotiations with Israel by exploiting the anti-Israeli bias of the U.N. General Assembly. U.S. aid to the Palestinian Authority should be closely tied to its compliance with previous agreements to fight terrorism, halt incitement against Israel, and negotiate a final peace settlement. The United States should leverage its aid to convince Palestinians that the only realistic path to a Palestinian state is through direct negotiations leading to a peace treaty with Israel.

US should end aid to Palestinian government if Hamas joins without renouncing terrorism

Brett D. Schaefer, Steven Groves and James Phillips 2014. (Schaefer - Jay Kingham Fellow in International Regulatory Affairs at Heritage's Margaret Thatcher Center for Freedom; master's degree in international development from School of International Service at American Univ in Washington . Groves – J.D.; Senior Research Fellow at Heritage Foundation. Phillips - Master's Degree and a M.A.L.D. in International Security Studies from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts Univ; senior research fellow for Middle Eastern affairs at Heritage Foundation) Palestinian Intent to Accede to 15 Treaties and U.S. Response 30 Apr 2014 <http://www.heritage.org/research/reports/2014/04/palestinian-intent-to-accede-to-15-treaties-and-us-response>

End U.S. aid to the Palestinian government if Hamas joins it without renouncing terrorism. Current law requires that the U.S. cut off aid unless all factions of the Palestinian government renounce terrorism, recognize Israel, and comply with all previous Israeli–Palestinian agreements. If Hamas and Fatah implement their “agreement in principle” to form a government of national unity, but fail to abide by these requirements, the U.S. should immediately suspend U.S. assistance.

Advocacy for the standards Hamas must meet before we should deal with it: the “Quartet” standards

Jim Zanotti 2013. (specialist in Middle Eastern Affairs with Congressional Research Service) 30 Sept 2013 “U.S. Foreign Aid to the Palestinians” <http://fas.org/sgp/crs/mideast/RS22967.pdf>

These principles have some similarity to the principles the so-called international Quartet (United States, European Union, U.N. Secretary-General’s office, and Russia) has required Hamas to meet before accepting dealings with it: (1) recognizing Israel’s right to exist, (2) renouncing violence, and (3) accepting previous Israeli-Palestinian agreements.

DISADVANTAGE RESPONSES

“Security training” – Response: Not working. Security goals are unmet and security personnel are involved in crime

Jim Zanotti 2013. (specialist in Middle Eastern Affairs with Congressional Research Service) 30 Sept 2013 “U.S. Foreign Aid to the Palestinians” <http://fas.org/sgp/crs/mideast/RS22967.pdf>

Additionally, the aspiration to coordinate international security assistance efforts and to consolidate the various PA security forces under unified civilian control that is accountable to rule of law and to human rights norms remains largely unfulfilled. PA forces have come under criticism for the political targeting of Hamas—in collaboration with Israel and the United States—through massive shutdowns and forced leadership changes to West Bank charities with alleged ties to Hamas members and through reportedly arbitrary detentions of Hamas members and supporters. Also, since 2012, some PA security personnel have reportedly been involved in criminal activity in a way that has raised questions about the sustainability of law and order in parts of the northern West Bank that have been held out as models of progress. This reportedly mainly involved personnel who had been granted amnesty from previous involvement with terrorist groups. At least one report cited unnamed Palestinian officials asserting that those arrested by the PA for criminal activity included a few personnel who belonged to battalions that had received U.S.-backed training.

“PA essential to peace” – Response: 20 years of failure. We should question why we are funding the P.A.

Dr. Khalil Shikaki 2014. (PhD; director of the Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research ; senior fellow at the Crown Center for Middle East Studies at Brandeis University) 4 Feb 2014 Implications of PA Collapse or Dissolution: The “Day After” Final Report <http://www.pcpsr.org/strategic/papers/2013/finalreport.pdf>

For the international community, the PA is the outcome of 20 years of investment on the road to peace and statehood. But the failure of negotiations to produce a peace agreement raises questions about the willingness or the ability of donor countries to continue to fund what seems to be a failing project. Donors are also sensitive to accusations that their policies and PA funding contribute to the consolidation of the status quo, or worse, subsidizing Israeli occupation or facilitating Palestinian corruption and authoritarianism. Sooner or later, Western taxpayers will question the wisdom of continued funding of the PA.

“PA collapse / loss of security” – Response: Israel would intervene

Dr. Khalil Shikaki 2014. (PhD; director of the Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research ; senior fellow at the Crown Center for Middle East Studies at Brandeis University) 4 Feb 2014 Implications of PA Collapse or Dissolution: The “Day After” Final Report <http://www.pcpsr.org/strategic/papers/2013/finalreport.pdf>

PA collapse as a result of external sanctions will lead to an immediate Israeli takeover of all matters related to security including a wide scale preemptive disarming of the PA security services. Seeking to prevent arms falling into the hands of armed groups and to prevent some of the security formations from participating in violent action against Israel, such action could lead to widespread takeover and destruction of PA’s security infrastructure.

“PA Collapse without US aid” – Response: Non-unique. Collapse happens anyway because Kerry’s talks failed

Palestinian negotiator said PA will collapse if John Kerry’s negotiations fail

Journalist Attila Somfalvi quoting chief Palestinian peace process negotiator Saeeb Erekat in 2014. Palestinian chief negotiator: If talks fail, PA will collapse, 16 Feb 2014 <http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-4489004,00.html>

Regarding the possibility of extending the nine-month timeframe set for the talks, Erekat said "We will not extend the negotiations for one minute beyond 29th April." Recent reports have claimed that Israel is currently working to extend the deadline. When asked what would happen after the talks reach their April deadline, Erekat said that "the PA cannot sustain its current position."  In such a case, "If Kerry's negotiations fail, the (Palestinian Authority) will collapse. Netanyahu will have to take over (the West Bank) and this is going to be very ugly."

Kerry’s negotiations failed in April 2014

NEW YORK TIMES 2014. (journalists Jodi Rudoren and Isabel Kershner) 28 Apr 2014 Arc of a Failed Deal: How Nine Months of Mideast Talks Ended in Disarray“ <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/04/29/world/middleeast/arc-of-a-failed-deal-how-nine-months-of-mideast-talks-ended-in-dissarray.html?_r=0>

In the last few weeks, even as both sides took steps that undermined the process, Mr. Kerry and his team produced a new package of incentives, including Palestinian autonomy for planning and zoning in Israeli-controlled parts of the West Bank. All sides left a meeting last Tuesday optimistic. The talks nonetheless [collapsed](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/04/26/world/middleeast/collapse-of-peace-talks-leaves-israel-in-precarious-position.html?hpw&amp;rref=world) two days later. Mr. Kerry has his share of the blame, at times leaving Israeli and Palestinian leaders with disparate understandings that would lead to later blowups and, toward the end, pushing beyond the White House’s comfort zone to create a new layer of internal negotiations that slowed events down.

“PA Collapse” – Response: Non-unique. Collapse will happen anyway due to Israeli settlements

PA will collapse as long as Israel keeps on building settlements on Palestinian land

Associated Press 2014. “If peace talks collapse, expect a search for out-of-the-box ideas” 26 Apr 2014 <http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-4513348,00.html> (brackets added)

[Palestinian Authority President] Abbas alluded to this in a meeting several days ago with Israeli lawmakers, threatening to "hand over the keys" of the Palestinians' autonomy government, saddle Israel with direct control of millions of Palestinians, and let it fend for itself. "The only realistic solutions are the two states or one state," [Fatah official Tawfik] Tirawi said. "If Israel keeps building in our land, the Palestinian Authority would collapse and then we are going to end up with one state for two peoples. And I think this has become the more realistic."

Israel will keep on building settlements

Lara Friedman 2014. (a former U.S. foreign service officer, is the director of policy and government relations for[Americans for Peace Now](http://peacenow.org/)) 2 March 2014 NEW YORK TIMES, Dissonance Is Within Israel, Not With Arabs <http://www.nytimes.com/roomfordebate/2014/03/02/is-a-settlement-boycott-best-for-israel>

In [1993](http://www.fmep.org/settlement_info/settlement-info-and-tables/stats-data/comprehensive-settlement-population-1972-2006), when peace efforts started, the West Bank and East Jerusalem were home to around 265,000 settlers. At the [end of 2012](https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/we.html), this number stood at around 540,000. The trend continues today: since the start of current peace efforts last August, the Israeli government has [opened the settlement floodgates](http://archive.peacenow.org/entries/new_peace_nowapn_report_bibis_settlements_boom_--_march-november_2013" \t "_blank), promoting thousands of new units, including in areas that cannot possibly remain under Israeli control in a future peace agreement.

“PA collapse” – Response: Good, let it collapse. P.A. funds pensions for terrorists

Michael Freund 2012. (served as Deputy Communications Director in the Israeli Prime Minister's Office under Netanyahu; MBA in finance from Columbia Univ.) JERUSALEM POST 27 Sept 2012 “Let the Palestinian Authority collapse” <http://www.michaelfreund.org/12336/palestinian-authority-collapse>

And what makes this all the more ironic is the fact that despite its budgetary woes, the PA continues to spend tens of millions of shekels each month providing stipends to the families of terrorists and suicide bombers. According to a report on Israel Channel 2 earlier this month, as of May 2011 the PA was spending NIS 26m. ($6.5m.) per month on payments to families of suicide bombers. They are also laying out an additional NIS 18m. ($4.5m.) each month in payments to the families of Palestinian prisoners, including those from Hamas and Islamic Jihad. Hence, the PA provides NIS 12,000 ($3,000) on a monthly basis to the family of Abbas al-Sayed, who was convicted of planning the 2002 Passover massacre at the Park Hotel in Netanya which murdered 30 Israelis. All told, six percent of the PA's entire budget goes toward such payments, which PA Prime Minister Salam Fayad, the darling of the West, generously chose to triple in size last year. This means that for every $16m. that is passed along to the Palestinians, at least $1m. of it will go to supporting the relatives of terrorists who tried or succeeded to kill Jews.