The Honorable Danny Werfel  
Commissioner  
Internal Revenue Service  
1111 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20224

June 20, 2024

Commissioner Werfel:

I write to you to request information regarding U.S.-registered 501(c)(3) non-profits and their potential involvement in terrorist activity. As the agency that has jurisdiction over entities that receive tax-exempt status, I find it concerning recent news reports indicate a U.S. 501(c)(3) non-profit organization was connected to an individual suspected of providing material support for the terrorist organization, Hamas. Given this concerning report, I would like to know what the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) is doing to ensure organizations that benefit from non-profit status are not supporting terrorism.

As you may be aware, on June 8, 2024, an Israel Defense Forces (IDF) rescue mission brought home four Israeli hostages who were kidnapped by Hamas terrorists on October 7, 2023. Reports indicate that three of them, Almog Meir, Shlomi Ziv, and Andrey Kozlov, were being held in the house of Abdullah Aljamal, a Palestinian journalist who worked as a “contributor” to The Palestine Chronicle, based in the Gaza strip.

_The Palestine Chronicle_, a U.S. based non-profit news website which receives a tax-free exemption, may have knowingly employed a Hamas terrorist. This is just one of many examples of a U.S. non-profit having links to illicit activity.

To that end, I request further details on what mechanisms are in place to prevent a 501(c)(3) from providing material support to a terrorist organization and what investigative tools are at the IRS’s disposal to prevent this from happening.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter impacting our national security and ensuring we prevent U.S. dollars from supporting terrorists. I look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,

BRYAN STEIL  
Member of Congress