Ms. Andrea Gacki  
Director, Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN)  
2070 Chain Bridge Road  
Vienna, VA 22182

Director Gacki:

We write to you to request a briefing regarding U.S.-registered nonprofits’ potential involvement in terrorist activity. We are concerned that nonprofit organizations with access to the U.S. financial system may be providing material support for terrorist organizations such as Hamas. This would be against the law, a threat to national security, and a material risk for U.S. financial institutions.

As you may be aware, following the Israel Defense Forces’ (IDF) successful hostage rescue operation on June 8, 2024, news reports revealed that Palestine Chronicle writer Abdallah Aljamal was holding three hostages in his family home on behalf of Hamas. Palestine Chronicle is based in the United States and appears to be a 501(c)(3) incorporated in the state of Washington. Given Mr. Aljamal’s affiliations and apparent terrorist activity, coordination or financial transactions between the U.S.-based non-profit and Mr. Aljamal could be in violation of U.S. law.

Mr. Aljamal’s case is just one concerning instance among many that have surfaced in news reports since the Hamas attack on Israel on October 7, 2023. We have laws on the books today that are meant to ensure our financial system is not being abused by terrorists or other bad actors. Financial institutions invest significant resources to comply with these laws, but they need the tools to address evolving threats.

To that end, we request a briefing by July 1, 2024, for members and staff of the House Committee on Financial Services in a non-classified setting on U.S.-based organizations’ potential support for Hamas, Hezbollah, or other affiliated terrorist groups engaged in hostilities against Israel and U.S. personnel in the region. Further, we request that FinCEN provide information on communications to financial institutions to assist them with their counter-terrorist financing compliance obligations.

Sincerely,

Bryan Steil  
Member of Congress

Blaine Luetkemeyer  
Chairman, Subcommittee on National Security, Illicit Finance, and International Financial Institutions
Tom Emmer  
Member of Congress

Scott Fitzgerald  
Member of Congress

Zach Nunn  
Member of Congress

French Hill  
Member of Congress

Mike Lawler  
Member of Congress

John Rose  
Member of Congress

1 18 U.S.C. 2339B
2 Jerusalem Post, "Did Gazan who held Israeli hostages work for Al Jazeera and US-based charity?", https://www.jpost.com/israel-hamas-war/article-805525#google_vignette