

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3305

September 9, 2011

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500-0001

Dear Mr. President:

As you know, officials from the Palestinian Authority (PA) have indicated they will seek United Nations' (UN) recognition of an Arab State of Palestine based upon the 1949 armistice lines. Although this matter has been the subject of negotiations between the PA and the state of Israel for years, the PA's initiative seeks to circumvent direct talks, which are the only means of achieving a just and lasting peace. Therefore, we respectfully request you instruct our nation's Ambassador to the UN to veto any resolution which seeks to recognize Palestinian statehood, or similar initiative, without an agreement first being reached between the PA and the state of Israel.

The United States has sought to play a constructive role in resolving the dispute between the Israelis and the Palestinians. The United States has joined with other nations and international organizations to encourage and assist both sides in resolving their differences by implementing a two-state solution. However, by referring its claim for statehood recognition to the UN, the PA will not only violate Palestinian commitments to Israel, but also to the United States and other nations which have endeavored to resolve the conflict through negotiations.

Peace cannot be achieved unilaterally. Only through direct negotiations between the parties will a just and lasting peace be accomplished. If the PA proceeds with its unilateral gambit, this could be viewed as a fundamental breach of various Israeli-Palestinian agreements, including the 1995 Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement on the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Such a result would be disastrous to the Palestinian cause, since the PA's governing authority in the West Bank ensues from its agreements with Israel.

Moreover, one must question whether the PA is ready to assume the mantle of responsible statehood. Specifically, the PA's recent unity agreement with Hamas, an internationally recognized terrorist organization which refuses to recognize Israel's right to exist, reflects poorly on the PA and its commitment to the principles upon which the UN was founded. This is especially true since the PA did not require Hamas to modify its Charter, which calls for the destruction of Israel. The PA must not be rewarded for disregarding principles enshrined in the UN Charter and allying itself with an unrepentant terrorist organization.

Accordingly, we respectfully urge your Administration to exercise our nation's veto in the UN Security Council should a resolution seeking Palestinian accession to UN membership, or a similar measure, including changing Palestine's status as a Permanent Observer to a non-Member state, be presented for consideration. Only a veto—not an abstention—will suffice to require the Palestinians to return to negotiations with Israel.

Thank you for your assistance and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Virginia Foxx

Virginia Foxx
Member of Congress

Steve King

Mike Stepanchuk

Lynn Jenkins

Alan K...

Scott Garrett

Cathy McMoran-Rodgers

Jeff Miller

John Kline

Bob Byrd

Frank Lautenberg

Tommy Tuberville

Mike Kelly

Kevin Cramer

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