

UNRWA Exposed: Examining the Agency's Mission and Failures
Joint Hearing
Rep. Chris Smith (R- NJ)
Chairman, Global Health, Human Rights, and International
Organizations
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In view of public pressure motivated by explosive new evidence that UNRWA employees were directly involved in the October 7 Hamas terrorist attack on Israel, the Biden Administration, last Friday, announced that it has “temporarily paused additional funding for UNRWA” while it reviews the evidence.

With all due respect to the President, this was a **long overdue** response. Going far beyond the revelations of the last week, there has long been massive and irrefutable evidence of UNRWA's extensive connivance, complicity, and cooperation in Hamas' antisemitic genocidal hate campaign.

Like the Nazi's before them, Hamas, and their chief terrorism sponsor Iran, are committing genocide against the Jews.

The [1988 Charter of Hamas](#) demands the absolute destruction of the state of Israel and proclaims: “Israel will exist and will continue to exist until Islam will obliterate it...” (Preamble)

Article 7 of the Hamas Charter demands the slaughter of all Jews: “The Day of Judgment will not come about until Moslems fight Jews and kill them. Then, the Jews will hide behind rocks and trees, and the rocks and

trees will cry out: 'O Moslem, there is a Jew hiding behind me, come and kill him.'"

Article 13 explicitly rejects initiatives for peace and reconciliation and states: "Initiatives, and so-called peaceful solutions and international conferences, are in contradiction to the principles of the Islamic Resistance Movement."

In its [2017 Charter](#), Hamas reiterates its goal of wiping Israel off the face of the earth: "There is no alternative to a fully sovereign Palestinian State on the entire national Palestinian soil, with Jerusalem as its capital."

In 2018 President Trump suspended all US funding to UNRWA, and they survived without the 30% of their budget the US typically provides, but tragically, in 2021 the Biden Administration resumed lavish support for UNRWA. [Now, with all their biggest donors pausing funds, UNRWA is saying they'll have to stop operating at the end of February.]

The U.S. government has donated more than [\\$1 billion to UNRWA since 2021](#). In FY 2022, U.S. taxpayers gave UNRWA \$364 million; in FY 2023, [\\$344 million](#); and in FY 24, the US is on track to provide [\\$371 million](#) - but the Administration has provided no clarity about how much of this funding is affected by the "pause" announced on January 26. As of this month UNRWA was listed as an implementer for a \$51 million humanitarian assistance project.

Yesterday, joined by Chairman Mast and Chairman Wilson, I introduced [H.R. 7122](#), legislation to prohibit our government from making

any voluntary or involuntary contributions to UNRWA, or to the regular budget of the UN for the support of UNRWA.

A good deal of this evidence of UNRWA's involvement with Hamas and other terrorist groups, as well as educating children toward terrorism – that is, poisoning their minds, has been presented publicly at hearings I chaired on UNRWA.

In the last eight months, I've chaired two hearings on UNRWA reform—one on [June 22](#) and a second on [November 8](#), and we heard from some of the same witnesses and organizations that we have before us today. We've heard how UNRWA's textbooks, curricula, summer camps, and official media are all infamous incubators of hatred, and we've seen the evidence of its teachers and administrators' involvement with Hamas.

UNRWA, the U.N. Relief and Works Agency, was set up in 1949 to provide aid to refugees—75 years later it is still going, which is absurd in itself, since nearby Arab nations will not permit the former to integrate into their societies.

UNRWA provides education in hatred of Jews for the vastly expanded number of children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren of the original refugees. UNRWA's textbooks, curricula, summer camps, official media are all infamous venues for anti-Jewish propaganda.

Aspects of its antisemitism are so twisted I won't describe them here—but its publicly available materials encourage children to "martyrdom" as suicide-bombers—the worst form of child abuse.

A new report by UN Watch carefully documents that “how UNRWA teachers in a 3,000-member UNRWA staff Telegram group cheered and celebrated Hamas’s October 7th massacre while at the same time asking when their UNRWA salaries will be paid.

The UNRWA staff in the group shared photos and video footage of those events and prayed for the terrorists’ success and for Israel’s destruction, in clear violation of UN rules.” Thank you, Hillel, for being here today to testify about this.

Similarly, IMPACT-SE has recently published three reports analyzing "hundreds of pages of teaching materials revealing that content glorifying terrorism, inciting violence and promoting antisemitism... is actually included in UNRWA's own materials—created by UNRWA staff, for UNRWA students." Thank you, Mr. Sheff for joining us to bear witness to this ugly truth.

As Mr. Goldberg has pointed out, “UNRWA doesn’t recognize Hamas, Islamic Jihad, Hezbollah, or the PFLP as terrorist groups. It does not submit staff, contractors, or beneficiaries for U.S. counterterrorism vetting.

It indoctrinates generation after generation to hate Jews and Israel and prepare for genocide. For UNRWA, terror finance is a feature, not a bug.”