

November 13, 2025

The Honorable Marco Rubio Secretary U.S. Department of State 2201 C St., NW Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Rubio,

We write in support of the Trump administration's efforts to advance lasting stability in Gaza and enduring security for Israel. President Trump's leadership has been instrumental in negotiating and maintaining the ceasefire agreement and in securing the ongoing release of hostages. It is vital to continue applying maximum pressure on Hamas to release the remaining hostages still held in Gaza. We also commend the administration's continued commitment to ensuring that Hamas is fully disarmed and can never rule again in the territory. As discussions on Gaza's future continue, we must avoid repeating the mistakes that empowered the terror group to take hold in the first place.

For decades, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) has operated in Gaza, yet extensive reporting, investigations, and intelligence assessments documented systemic infiltration of the agency by Hamas and other U.S.-designated foreign terrorist organizations. At least twelve UNRWA employees took part in the Hamas-led October 7 attacks, and roughly ten percent of UNRWA's Gaza staff have ties to terrorist groups, with many more having close relatives involved in these organizations. Since October 7, Hamas has repeatedly stolen the agency's aid and supplies, weapons have been found in its schools, tunnel infrastructure has been uncovered in or near its facilities, and its buildings were even used to hold hostages. Long before the war, UNRWA's curriculum was already known to radicalize Palestinian youth by promoting antisemitism and glorifying terrorism.

In response to these alarming findings, the United States rightfully suspended funding to UNRWA and Israel barred the agency from operating on its territory. These steps were necessary because UNRWA has shown it cannot maintain neutrality or operate without being coopted by terrorists. During your recent visit to Israel, you reaffirmed UNRWA's ties to terrorism, describing the agency as "a subsidiary of Hamas" and making clear that it "is not going to play any role" in the delivery of aid to Gaza. Reinstating UNRWA would only recreate the very conditions that allowed Hamas to entrench itself and exert control in Gaza.

We strongly urge the administration to ensure that UNRWA play no role in any efforts to stabilize, govern, and rebuild Gaza. Instead, we encourage the United States to work with vetted international partners, trusted regional actors, and nongovernmental organizations that are demonstrably free of terrorist influence and committed to transparency, accountability, and peace.

We appreciate your leadership and stand prepared to work with the Trump administration to support Gaza reconstruction efforts and ensure lasting security for Israel.

Sincerely,

Pete Ricketts

United States Senator

James E. Risch

Chairman

Senate Foreign Relations Committee

Steve Daines

United States Senator

Ted Budd

United States Senator

onthia M. Lummis

United States Senator

Tommy Tuberville United States Senator

Bill Hagerty

United States Senator

John Cornyn

United States Senator

Roger F. Wicker

United States Senator

Tom Cotton

United States Senator

Tim Scott United States Senator

Bernie Moreno United States Senator

John Boozman United States Senator

Lindsey O. Graham United States Senator

Shelley Moore Capito
United States Senator

James Lankford United States Senator Swan M. Collins

Susan M. Collins United States Senator

Charles E. Grassley United States Senator

Tim Sheehy

United States Senator

Deb Fischer

United States Senator

Ted Cruz

United States Senator

Mike Crapo

United States Senator

Mike Lee United States Senator

Dave H. McCormick United States Senator

Katie Boyd Britt United States Senator

John Hoeven

United States Senator