

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

December 4, 2020

The Honorable Michael Pompeo  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Pompeo:

We are writing to request a resumption of humanitarian assistance and peacebuilding programs to address the continuing humanitarian crises facing Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza. Given the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the region, restarting these efforts are key to regional stability and security in the coming months. This includes funding for the U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), disbursing additional humanitarian assistance already appropriated by Congress, and restarting Israeli-Palestinian Conflict Management and Mitigation programming.

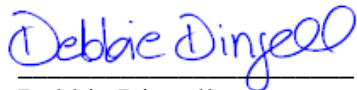
Swift restoration of humanitarian support to the Palestinian people through UNRWA is urgent. UNRWA's Commissioner-General recently announced the Agency is unable to meet its full payroll, leaving it able to pay only a portion of the salaries to 28,000 UNRWA staff for November, including health care workers and teachers. Having already cut its staff and ceased needed repairs and investments in its infrastructure, classroom sizes have been increased to 50 students per teacher, and physicians now see some 70 patients a day during the COVID-19 pandemic. Without immediate assistance, UNRWA faces the prospect, in short order, of having to terminate completely its essential humanitarian services to Palestinian refugees. The need for U.S. assistance to UNRWA is now greater than ever.

Additionally, restarting international disaster and development assistance through USAID is critical to addressing the long-term humanitarian challenges facing the Palestinian people. This funding – which has already been appropriated by Congress through the Economic Support Fund – supports additional public health and infrastructure projects that both address immediate health care needs while helping to build a sustainable economy that empowers the Palestinian people.

Finally, ensuring that Palestinians are able to participate in the Conflict Management and Mitigation program (CMM) is vital to building bridges and supporting people-to-people relationships that are a necessary precondition to a lasting peace in the region. Past Israel-Palestinian CMM programs include programs that bring together Israeli and Palestinian youth, promote cooperation on economic development, and foster improved civic engagement. Restarting Israeli-Palestinian CMM programming will help lay the groundwork for future diplomatic engagement between the two sides.

Resumption of humanitarian assistance and programming is imperative as we work to address the ongoing humanitarian crisis in the West Bank and Gaza. Moreover, it is consistent with longstanding stated U.S. goals of promoting regional peace and stability. Thank you for your consideration of this request

Sincerely,



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Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress



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Rashida Tlaib  
Member of Congress

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James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress

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Peter Welch  
Member of Congress

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Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress

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Ilhan Omar  
Member of Congress

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Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress

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Bobby L. Rush  
Member of Congress

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Brenda L. Lawrence  
Member of Congress

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Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress

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Ayanna Pressley  
Member of Congress

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Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress

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David E. Price  
Member of Congress

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Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress

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Daniel T. Kildee  
Member of Congress

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Jackie Speier  
Member of Congress

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Scott Peters  
Member of Congress

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Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress

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André Carson  
Member of Congress

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Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress

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John Yarmuth  
Member of Congress

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Alan S. Lowenthal  
Member of Congress

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Donald M. Payne, Jr.  
Member of Congress

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Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress

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Judy Chu  
Member of Congress

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Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress

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Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress

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Jesús G. “Chuy” García  
Member of Congress

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Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress

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Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Member of Congress

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Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress

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Veronica Escobar  
Member of Congress

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Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress

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Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Member of Congress

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David Cicilline  
Member of Congress

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Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress

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Paul D. Tonko  
Member of Congress

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Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress

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Peter DeFazio  
Member of Congress

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Ron Kind  
Member of Congress

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Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress

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Mike Doyle  
Member of Congress

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Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress

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Andy Levin  
Member of Congress

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Ro Khanna  
Member of Congress

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Jason Crow  
Member of Congress

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Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress

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Jennifer Wexton  
Member of Congress

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Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress

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Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress

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Jahana Hayes  
Member of Congress

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Salud Carbajal  
Member of Congress

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Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress