

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 3, 2017

The Honorable Nikki Haley
U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations
799 United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017-3505

Dear Ambassador Haley:

For years, Congress has raised alarm regarding the Palestinian Authority's (PA) practice of paying Palestinian prisoners serving sentences in Israeli prisons, as well as the families of deceased terrorists. The core problem is that these payments, codified in Palestinian law, only go to prisoners and increase based on the length of a prisoner's sentence, thus incentivizing and rewarding greater acts of terrorism.

A clear demonstration of congressional concern was the decision, starting with fiscal year 2015 appropriations, to reduce the amount of U.S. economic assistance to the West Bank and Gaza by the amount expended by the PA as payment for acts of terrorism. This year, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee is taking up the Taylor Force Act, which would cut off economic support funds that directly benefit the PA until the Secretary of State can certify that the system of paying terrorists has ended.

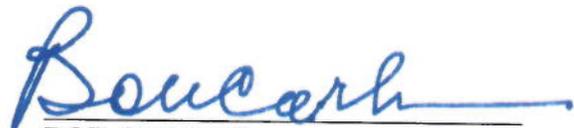
We welcome your statement on June 28 before the House Foreign Affairs Committee regarding "the need to have a strong conversation with [the PA] on how these martyr payments have to stop...and let them know that that's not something we are going to accept or do going forward."

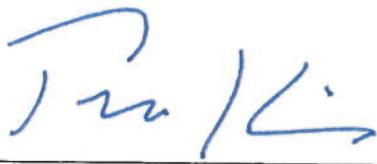
We now urge you to use your position as the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations to raise the problem of PA payments for acts of terrorism at the UN Security Council. We also request that you urge other U.N. member nations on the Council, in the General Assembly, and across UN agencies to join the U.S. in calling on the PA to end this system immediately.

We are hopeful that your efforts to use diplomatic leverage on the international stage will complement action in Congress.

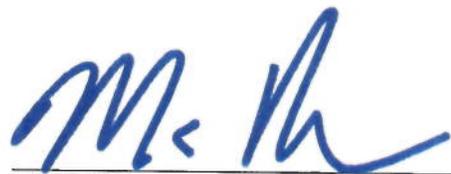
Sincerely,


BENJAMIN L. CARDIN
United States Senator


BOB CORKER
United States Senator



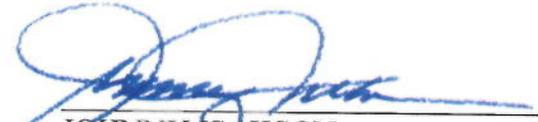
TIM KAINÉ
United States Senator



MARCO RUBIO
United States Senator



ROBERT MENENDEZ
United States Senator



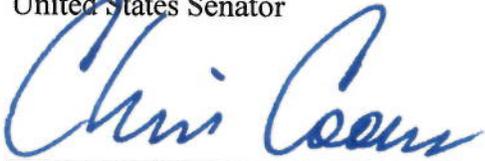
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