

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

April 28, 2011

His Excellency Mahmoud Abbas  
Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee  
President of the Palestinian National Authority  
Al Muqata'a, Ramallah West Bank

Dear Mr. President:

We write to express serious concerns about your intentions to seek recognition of an independent Palestinian state at the United Nations and the pursuit of a unity government with Hamas, which has not recognized the Jewish state of Israel's right to exist. We urge you to end these actions and return to direct negotiations with Israel, which will provide the only path to a viable and durable two-state agreement.

The 1993 Oslo Accords were explicitly understood to be part of an ongoing, negotiated peace process. In fact, a letter from the Palestinian leadership stated that the PLO "commits itself to a peaceful resolution of the conflict between the two sides and declares that all outstanding issues relating to permanent status will be resolved through negotiations." That understanding enabled Israel to turn over governance of significant aspects of Palestinian society to an elected Palestinian government.

Since that time, the U.S. Congress has been a strong partner in your government's efforts to build the institutions that will someday govern an independent Palestinian state. The U.S. government has provided billions of dollars as well as technical assistance and training to increase security, promote economic growth and fiscal independence, strengthen public institutions, and meet humanitarian needs.

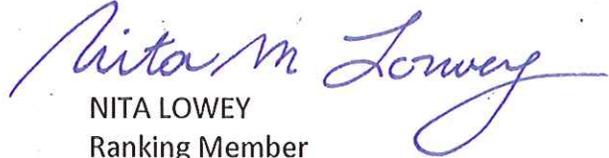
U.S. aid is predicated on the premise that your government has demonstrated a firm commitment to pursuing efforts to establish a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace with Israel. As you know, U.S. law also requires a commitment to countering terrorism, confiscating weapons, and dismantling terrorist infrastructure. In addition, it prohibits aid to Hamas, Hamas-controlled areas, and any power-sharing government that includes Hamas, until Hamas publicly acknowledges the Jewish state of Israel's right to exist and commits to a two-state solution. Your current courses of action undermine the purposes and threaten the provision of United States assistance and support.

We have been strong supporters of aid to the Palestinian Authority in the hopes of ensuring prosperity, stability, and peace for the Palestinian people and all people in the region. However, our ability to support current and future aid would be severely threatened if you abandon direct negotiations with Israel and continue with your current efforts.

Sincerely,



KAY GRANGER  
Chairwoman  
Subcommittee on State, Foreign  
Operations, and Related Programs  
Committee on Appropriations



NITA LOWEY  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on State, Foreign  
Operations, and Related Programs  
Committee on Appropriations