



**United States Department of State**

***Washington, D.C. 20520***

July 28, 2022

Case No. FL-2022-00031

Reed Rubinstein  
America First Legal Foundation  
600 14<sup>th</sup> Street NW, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. Rubinstein:

As we noted in our letter dated June 27, 2022, we are processing your request for material under the Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”), 5 U.S.C. § 552. The Department of State has processed more than 300 pages of potentially responsive material since its last release and has identified an additional 12 responsive records subject to the FOIA. We have determined eight records may be released in full and four records must be withheld in their entirety.

An enclosure explains the FOIA exemptions and other grounds for withholding material. Where we have made redactions, the applicable FOIA exemptions are marked on each record. The records withheld in full are exempt from release pursuant to FOIA Exemption 5, 5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(5). All non-exempt material that is reasonably segregable from the exempt material has been released and is enclosed.

We will keep you informed as your case progresses. If you have any questions, your attorney may contact Stephen DeGenaro, Assistant U.S. Attorney, at [Stephen.DeGenaro@usdoj.gov](mailto:Stephen.DeGenaro@usdoj.gov) and/or (202) 252-7229. Please refer to the case number, FL-2022-00031, and the civil action number, 21-cv-02832, in all correspondence about this case.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Diamonece Hickson', with a large, stylized initial 'D' and a long, sweeping horizontal stroke at the end.

Diamonece Hickson  
Acting Chief, Litigation and Appeals Branch  
Office of Information Programs and Services

Enclosures: As stated.

## **The Freedom of Information Act (5 USC 552)**

### **FOIA Exemptions**

- (b)(1) Information specifically authorized by an executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy. Executive Order 13526 includes the following classification categories:
- 1.4(a) Military plans, systems, or operations
  - 1.4(b) Foreign government information
  - 1.4(c) Intelligence activities, sources or methods, or cryptology
  - 1.4(d) Foreign relations or foreign activities of the US, including confidential sources
  - 1.4(e) Scientific, technological, or economic matters relating to national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
  - 1.4(f) U.S. Government programs for safeguarding nuclear materials or facilities
  - 1.4(g) Vulnerabilities or capabilities of systems, installations, infrastructures, projects, plans, or protection services relating to US national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
  - 1.4(h) Weapons of mass destruction
- (b)(2) Related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency
- (b)(3) Specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than 5 USC 552), for example:
- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| ARMSEXP        | Arms Export Control Act, 50a USC 2411(c)                    |
| CIA PERS/ORG   | Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949, 50 USC 403(g)      |
| EXPORT CONTROL | Export Administration Act of 1979, 50 USC App. Sec. 2411(c) |
| FS ACT         | Foreign Service Act of 1980, 22 USC 4004                    |
| INA            | Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 USC 1202(f), Sec. 222(f) |
| IRAN           | Iran Claims Settlement Act, Public Law 99-99, Sec. 505      |
- (b)(4) Trade secrets and confidential commercial or financial information
- (b)(5) Interagency or intra-agency communications forming part of the deliberative process, attorney-client privilege, or attorney work product
- (b)(6) Personal privacy information
- (b)(7) Law enforcement information whose disclosure would:
- (A) interfere with enforcement proceedings
  - (B) deprive a person of a fair trial
  - (C) constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy
  - (D) disclose confidential sources
  - (E) disclose investigation techniques
  - (F) endanger life or physical safety of an individual
- (b)(8) Prepared by or for a government agency regulating or supervising financial institutions
- (b)(9) Geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells

### **Other Grounds for Withholding**

- NR Material not responsive to a FOIA request excised with the agreement of the requester



*Washington, D.C. 20520*

**CONGRESSIONAL REPORT TRANSMITTAL LETTER**

Please find enclosed the following report from the Department of State.

**Department Report Number:** 003554

**Report Title: Report to Congress:** Report Pursuant to Section 804 of the Palestine Liberation Organization Commitments Compliance Act of 1989 ("PLOCCA") (Title VIII, P.L. 101-246) and Sections 603-604 and 699 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, FY 2003 ("the Act") (P.L. 107-228)

**Legislation:** Section 804 of the Palestine Liberation Organization Commitments Compliance Act of 1989 ("PLOCCA") (Title VIII, P.L. 101-246) and Sections 603-604 and 699 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, FY 2003 ("the Act") (P.L. 107-228)

**Recipients:**

Speaker of the House of Representatives  
House Foreign Affairs Committee  
Senate Foreign Relations Committee

Sincerely,

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Mary Elizabeth Taylor  
Assistant Secretary of State  
Bureau of Legislative Affairs



United States Department of State

*Washington, D.C. 20520*

**CONGRESSIONAL REPORT TRANSMITTAL LETTER**

Please find enclosed the following report from the Department of State.

**Department Report Number:** 004462

**Report Title:** PLO Commitments Compliance Act of 1989, as amended

**Legislation:** Section 803(b) and Section 804(b) of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1990 and 1991 (P.L. 101-246) and Sections 603, 604 and 699 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 2003 (P.L. 107-228)

**Recipients:**

House Foreign Affairs Committee

Senate Foreign Relations Committee

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Naz Durakoglu".

Naz Durakoglu  
Acting Assistant Secretary

Enclosure:  
As Stated

## Congressional Report Tasker Bureau of Legislative Affairs

### **Report Details**

**Report Number:** 003906

**Report Title:** PLO Commitments Compliance Act of 1989, as amended

**Legislation:** Section 803(b) and Section 804(b) of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1990 and 1991 (P.L. 101-246) and Sections 603, 604 and 699 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 2003 (P.L. 107-228)

**Bureau:** NEA

**Delegation:** S *(please confirm delegation with L)*

**Frequency:** Semiannual

**Page Limit:** 5 pages

**Receiving Committees:** *(Chairmen and Ranking Members only)*

House Foreign Affairs Committee

Senate Foreign Relations Committee

Speaker of the House of Representatives

**Tasked to Bureau:** May 28, 2020

**Due in Everest:** August 31, 2020

**Due to Congress:** October 5, 2020

*Please follow the attached Congressional Report Instructions for drafting, clearing, and submitting Congressional report packages.*

## Congressional Report Tasker Bureau of Legislative Affairs

### **Report Details**

**Report Number:** 004462

**Report Title:** PLO Commitments Compliance Act of 1989, as amended

**Legislation:** Section 803(b) and Section 804(b) of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1990 and 1991 (P.L. 101-246) and Sections 603, 604 and 699 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 2003 (P.L. 107-228)

**Bureau:** NEA

**Delegation:** S *(please confirm delegation with L)*

**Frequency:** Semiannual

**Page Limit:** Approximately 5 pages in 12 Times New Roman font or 7 pages in 14 Times New Roman font

**Recipients:** *(Chairmen and Ranking Members only)*

House Foreign Affairs Committee

Senate Foreign Relations Committee

Speaker of the House of Representatives

**Tasked to Bureau:** May 24, 2021

**Due to Cascades:** August 31, 2021

**Due to Congress:** October 5, 2021

*Please follow the attached Congressional Report Instructions for drafting, clearing, and submitting Congressional report packages.*

**DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
BUREAU OF LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS**

**CONGRESSIONALLY MANDATED REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

**ACTION ASSIGNED TO:**

NEA

**LEGISLATION:**

Foreign Relations Authorization Act, PL 107-228; Section 603-604, and 699 // P.L. 101-246 Sec 803(b)sec 804(b) // P.L. 104-104, Sec 604(b)(1)

**REPORT TITLE:**

PLO Commitments Compliance Act of 1989, as amended.

**DATE DUE IN H:**

2 March 2020

**DATE DUE TO CONGRESS:**

REPORT NUMBER: 003554

6 April 2020

**INSTRUCTIONS:****DELEGATION: P**

*Please confirm delegation with your L contact*

**TO WHOM IN CONGRESS**

Speaker of the House of Representatives; House Foreign Affairs Committee; Senate Foreign Relations Committee

Bureaus are reminded to prepare reports in accordance with the new Congressional Report Reform Initiative as described in the September 21, 2010 memorandum from S/ES. Please read the attached memorandum for guidance.

**(LETTERS TO THE CHAIRMAN AND RANKING MEMBER ONLY)****REMARKS/ SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:**

**\*\* (Hard copies no longer need to be submitted to H Staffers!) Please e-mail the complete package to H\_Staffers & cc: State-LRM on the High Side. Please provide addressed envelopes to match the addressee on the letters and when appropriate, completed (except for the date) classified receipt forms.**

**\*\* Action Memos are not required for Congressional Reports! \*\* Please use the Congressional Report Cover Sheet Template under the "Congressional Templates" section of InfoLink. Also, include the unique Report Number displayed under the Report Title into the subject line of all e-mail correspondence to H.**

**FORMAT:** This report should have 5 pages of narrative, tables or both. Respond only with the information requested and seek guidance from your Congressional Advisor if you exceed 5 pages.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: E-MAIL STATE-LRM**

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)





Month Day, 2020 (H will fill in upon transmittal)

## TRANSMITTAL OF A DETERMINATION TO CONGRESS

Please find enclosed the following Determination and accompanying documentation from the Department of State.

**Department Report Number:** 004109

**Title of DETERMINATION:** Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Commitments Compliance Act of 1989

**Background:** Pursuant to Section 804 of the Palestine Liberation Organization Commitments Compliance Act of 1989 (Title VIII, Foreign Relations Authorizations Act, Fiscal Years 1990 and 1991 (P.L. 101-246)), as amended; and sections 603 and 604 (Middle East Peace Commitments Act of 2002) and 699 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 2003 (P.L. 107-228) ("the Act"), enclosed is a report covering the period from October 1, 2020 to April 1, 2021. Pursuant to the President's Delegation of Functions dated April 30, 2009, the Secretary of State, through the Deputy Secretary of State, has made a Determination on Imposition and Waiver of Sanctions under Sections 603 and 604 of the Act. Please find enclosed the Determination and accompanying documentation on this matter.

**Recipients:**

Speaker of the House of Representatives  
House Foreign Affairs Committee  
Senate Foreign Relations Committee

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Naz Durakoglu".

Naz Durakoglu  
Acting Assistant Secretary of State  
Bureau of Legislative Affairs

Enclosure:

As stated.

**Report Pursuant to Section 804 of the Palestine Liberation Organization Commitments Compliance Act of 1989 ("PLOCCA") (Title VIII, P.L. 101-246) and Sections 603-604 and 699 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, FY 2003 ("the Act") (P.L. 107-228)**

This report and related determinations are transmitted in accordance with the provisions cited above. This report describes compliance by the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and the Palestinian Authority (PA), as appropriate, with respect to commitments specified in section 602(1) of the Act, and any additional commitments in then-Chairman Arafat's September 9, 1993, letters to Israeli Prime Minister Rabin and Norwegian Foreign Minister Holst and to those contained in, and resulting from, the good-faith implementation of the Declaration of Principles. The commitments made by the PLO are cited in the Act. In addition, in 1998, the PLO, through the Palestine National Council (PNC), voted to affirm the PLO's decision to annul articles of the PLO covenant that deny Israel's right to exist and to strengthen cooperation with Israel on a wide range of security issues. As described in prior reports, both parties' further commitments are set out in the Wye River Memorandum of October 23, 1998, and the Sharm el-Sheikh Memorandum of September 4, 1999, which are intended to ensure the effective handling of any incident involving a threat or act of terrorism by cooperating in the exchange of information; coordinating policies; and taking measures to prevent acts of terrorism, violence, or incitement. The reporting period for this report is October 4, 2019 through April 4, 2020.

**I. Overview of the Reporting Period:** The Administration engaged in efforts to advance an enduring and comprehensive peace between Israel and the Palestinians and engaged with key stakeholders in the region and other members of the international community, as President Trump unveiled his plan "Peace to Prosperity: A Vision to Improve the Lives of the Palestinian and Israeli People" on January 28, 2020.

Economic growth in the West Bank was partially constrained by Israel's security-based restrictions, which Israel states are important and necessary to preventing and countering Palestinian terrorism. These include restrictions on Palestinian access to land, natural resources, and movement and access, which can slow the transportation of goods and increase the costs of trade.

The PA continued to make payments to Palestinians connected to terrorism, including Palestinian terrorists in Israeli prison, released Palestinian terrorists, and the families of Palestinians who were wounded or died while committing terrorist acts or in connection with terrorism. In accordance with the July 2018 Israeli Deduction Law, Israel withheld a monthly sum equal to what the PA paid to these individuals and families (approximately \$12 million a month) from its monthly clearance transfers to the PA. In response, the PA refused to accept any of the remaining \$140 million (approximate) in tax revenue transfers from Israel, which together represented about 65 percent of the PA's budget. As the PA's fiscal situation worsened, Israel and the PA reached an agreement on October 5, 2019, under which the PA accepted most of the taxes Israel collected on its behalf. In December 2019, Defense Minister Bennett announced that the Israeli government would begin withholding an additional \$43 million annually from PA revenues to account for PA payments to families of Palestinians who were wounded or died while committing terrorist acts or in connection with terrorism. The United States takes the

position that these PA payments incentivize, encourage, and reward terrorism, as higher monthly payments are made for lengthier prison sentences tied to more severe crimes.

In Gaza, U.S.-designated foreign terrorist organizations supported by Iran, including Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ), and other militant groups, posed a serious threat to Israel's security. Primary factors in Gaza's worsening economic and humanitarian situation included repeated attacks by these groups against Israel, Hamas's refusal to surrender security control of Gaza, the PA's cuts to civil-servant salaries in Gaza, and Israel's security-based movement and access restrictions, including restrictions on the import and export of goods Israel identified as of dual-use concern. These restrictions are aimed at denying Hamas materials to reconstitute and build its arsenal against Israel. At least 70 percent of Gaza's residents needed some form of humanitarian assistance during the reporting period.

PA security forces continued to maintain law and order in areas of the West Bank under full PA security control (Area A). Israeli-Palestinian security coordination continued at both the tactical and leadership levels, to include preventing violent attacks emanating from the West Bank on Israelis, arresting members of U.S.-designated foreign terrorist organizations such as Hamas and PIJ, and confiscating illegal weapons. There were, nevertheless, continued terrorist attacks on Israelis by Palestinian residents of the West Bank during the period covered by this report.

## **II. Determinations as to Palestinian Compliance with their Commitments Required by Section 603 of the Act:**

"Recognition of the right of the State of Israel to exist in peace and security:"

President Abbas has stated his commitment to non-violence, to a two-state solution, and to previous PLO commitments, including recognition of the right of the State of Israel to exist in peace. However, Abbas and others within the PLO and PA have also made public statements inconsistent with this commitment. Some PA schools and media outlets continue to promote the idea that Israel does not have a right to exist and support the elimination of Israel, displaying maps that show "Palestine" as a label for Israel, and indicating that "Palestine" will be "liberated" in the future.

"Acceptance of United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338:"

The PLO and PA expressed their acceptance of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 as the basis for achieving a peaceful and comprehensive resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"Resolution of all outstanding issues in the conflict between the sides through negotiations and exclusively peaceful means:"

On February 11, 2020, PA President Abbas spoke at the United Nations Security Council, where he reiterated the PA's rejection of the Administration's peace plan. He said, "We always call for peace. We reject violence and terrorism ... We are fighting terrorism. We are not terrorists. And we will remain committed to combating terrorism."

During the reporting period, the PA continued to provide support to the ICC Prosecutor conducting a preliminary examination into the situation in the “state of Palestine”, including into alleged Israeli war crimes. On December 20, 2019, the ICC Prosecutor announced the result of the preliminary examination, claiming there was a “reasonable basis to believe that war crimes were committed” by Israel and Hamas, and requesting the ICC PreTrial Chamber rule on the scope of territorial jurisdiction before launching a formal investigation. On March 16, 2020, the PA submitted its perspective on the ICC’s jurisdiction. The United States and Israel have made clear their views that this investigation should not proceed, but have not formally engaged with the ICC. Several other countries who are States Parties to the Rome Statute of the ICC have filed views that the ICC does not have jurisdiction in this case. On April 30, the Prosecutor reaffirmed her view that there is a reasonable basis to proceed with an investigation of the situation in Palestine. This includes investigation of alleged war crimes in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip. She also expressed the view that the Court's territorial jurisdiction covers these areas. The ICC PreTrial Chamber was expected to issue its ruling in the months following, although COVID-19 has affected the work of the ICC.

“Renunciation of the use of terrorism and all other acts of violence and responsibility over all PLO elements and personnel in order to assure their compliance, prevent violations, and discipline violators:”

The PA took steps during this reporting period to prevent terrorism and other acts of violence in areas of the West Bank under its control. Israeli authorities noted PA security forces’ continued commitment to security coordination with Israel and steady contribution, despite political and financial uncertainty, to the maintenance of security in the West Bank.

Glorification of terrorism occurred in PA-controlled schools and media outlets, including official PA TV and social media accounts affiliated with President Abbas’s Fatah political party. Prominent Palestinians continued to engage in activities that honored and glorified terrorists who killed Israelis and Americans. PLO and PA leaders praised Palestinian terrorists. For example, on November 11, 2019, on PA TV, Abbas again acknowledged and glorified the violent history of the PA, stating “These martyrs, these commanders ... all of the heroic martyrs who have died for Allah, who sacrificed for Allah and the Palestinian cause. These martyrs ... have died in their thousands for just one goal, which is the liberation of Palestine – and we are still continuing on their path.” Palestinian Legislative Council member Mahmoud Aloul said on PA TV on December 31, 2019, “How great is the suffering and pain of the prisoners who are dear to our hearts ... wonderful fighters of whom we are proud”.

Since 2007, the PA has taken effective measures to prevent individuals involved in terrorist activities from serving in PA security services. During the reporting period, PA security forces continued to combat terrorist activity, including through detentions and arrests of members of Hamas and of other terrorist and extremist organizations.

The PLO and PA had no effective security control in Gaza, which remained under the *de facto* control of Hamas during the reporting period. The PA has not fully complied

with its commitments to assume responsibility over all elements and personnel to prevent violations and discipline violators, with militants exploiting the limits of PA control.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), both part of the PLO, remained supportive of terrorist activity. The DFLP and its military arm, the National Resistance Brigades, published a video during the reporting period highlighting an arsenal that included mortars and rockets. On January 9, 2020, PFLP in Gaza released a video showing a rocket, and threatened Israel, in support of a PFLP-led hunger strike. On November 28, 2019, the PFLP criticized peaceful efforts to resolve the conflict, saying, "The escalating Israeli measures on the ground and U.S. attempts to end the Palestinian people's cause require taking a decision to drop down the peace settlement approach, stop security coordination, withdraw recognition of Israel, and cut relations with the U.S. Administration." Both organizations maintained active militant wings in Gaza that operated jointly with Hamas, PIJ, and other terrorist groups during the reporting period. In November 2019, Hamas did not join as PIJ fired nearly 400 rockets into Israel in response to the killing of a PIJ militant leader. The PFLP claimed responsibility for several rockets fired in the PIJ attack.

**III. Imposition of Sanction under Section 604:** Pursuant to section 603 of the Act, the Deputy Secretary of State has determined that the PLO and the PA are not in compliance with certain commitments to prevent violations, discipline violators, and assume responsibility over all PLO elements, as noted in this report. Thus, the sanction specified in section 604(a)(2) of the Act, denial of visa for PLO and PA officials has been imposed.

**IV. Waiver of Sanction:** An enduring and comprehensive peace between Israel and the Palestinians remains a longstanding goal of U.S. foreign policy. The Administration is committed to advancing this goal. In June 2019, the Administration unveiled its economic vision for a brighter future for Palestinians and the region, in the context of a comprehensive peace agreement. The PA boycotted the workshop, threatened, and intimidated Palestinians who were invited; as a result, most did not participate. Those few Palestinians who did participate were harassed and targeted upon their return, with one participant arrested.

The Administration presented the "Peace to Prosperity: A Vision to Improve the Lives of the Palestinian and Israeli People" political framework in January 2020. The Administration continues to urge the PLO and PA leadership to engage on the U.S. Vision and enter constructive talks with Israel based on the Vision. Therefore, a blanket denial of visas to PLO members and PA officials would not be consistent with the Administration's expressed willingness to engage with the PLO and PA leadership, and its hope that this leadership will enter negotiations.

For these reasons, and consistent with the justification provided to Congress upon the President's exercise of his authority on April 7, 2010, under section 7034(b) of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2010 (Div. F, P.L. 111-117), to waive the provisions of section 1003 of P.L. 100-204, the Deputy Secretary is invoking the waiver authority granted by Section 604(c) of the Act, based on his determination that such a waiver is in the national security interests of the United States. Please see the determination attached hereto.

**V. Other PLOCCA Requirements:** In addition to reporting on compliance with the commitments detailed above, section 804(b) of the PLOCCA requires a report (covering the same reporting period) on the PLO's progress toward achievement of certain additional measures consistent with its commitments. Previous commitments, policy, and information from past PLOCCA reports remain as stated, unless new information is provided below.

- Measures Taken to Prevent Violence and Punish Offenders:** PA security forces continue to prevent violence and punish offenders in the West Bank, both independently and in coordination with Israel. PA security forces continue to operate against terrorist groups in areas under full PA security control in the West Bank (Area A) and in some parts of areas under joint Israeli-Palestinian security control (Area B). Offenders are arrested and tried in accordance with PA legal arrangements currently in place. In areas of the West Bank outside PA control (parts of Area B and all of Area C, in which Israel has full civil and security control), the PA continues security coordination with Israel.
- PLO Charter:** As mentioned in previous reports, the PLO complied with its commitment to amend its charter.
- Arab League Boycott of Israel:** As previously reported, the PLO and the PA officially disavowed the Arab League boycott. Nevertheless, Jibril Rajoub, Head of the PLO Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, called on Arab nations in January 2020 "to refuse to participate in any event that the occupation state hosts" and to "refuse to host any event in which Israeli groups participate," encouraging "every Arab athlete to refuse to compete against an Israeli athlete." The PA has also expressed support for the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanction (BDS) movement against Israel. Most recently, the PA praised the release of a United Nations Office for the High Commissioner of Human Rights (OHCHR) database of 112 companies engaging in business in the eastern part of Jerusalem and the West Bank. PM Mohammad Shtayyeh welcomed the OHCHR database, saying it was a "step towards exposing settlements and attempts to legalize them ... We demand the companies immediately close their headquarters and branches inside illegal Israeli settlements because their presence contradicts international and U.N. resolutions ... We will pursue companies listed in the report legally through international legal institutions and in courts in their countries for taking part in human rights violations in Palestine." The United States rejected the publication of the OHCHR database, which facilitated the discriminatory BDS campaign which delegitimizes Israel, and called on all UN member states to do the same and support their companies' business operations.
- Assistance to Palestinians:** The Department of State and USAID continue to vet, monitor, and supervise the distribution and use of U.S.-provided assistance in line with requirements under relevant laws, to ensure that U.S. foreign assistance is not diverted for terrorist purposes. As of February 1, 2019, at the request of the PA, the United States ceased providing any assistance under the authorities specified in the Anti-Terrorism Clarification Act (ATCA) in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. As of that date, all USAID assistance in the West Bank and Gaza ceased, as did U.S. security assistance to the PA from the International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INCLE) funding stream. In April 2020, the United States provided \$5 million in International Disaster Assistance

(IDA) through USAID to Catholic Relief Services (CRS) to assist Palestinian hospitals and households in the West Bank in responding to the COVID-19 crisis, as part of the broader, global U.S.-led response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- **Additional PLOCCA Reporting Requirements:** There are no new developments in the cases of Abu al-Abbas, Force 17, or the Hawari group.

**VI. Report on Transfer of Proscribed Weapons to Persons or Entities in the West Bank and**

**Gaza:** Terrorist groups and their sympathizers continued to smuggle illegal weapons and cash into the Gaza Strip via the few remaining underground tunnels located along the Egypt-Gaza border throughout the reporting period, despite Egyptian military operations in the Sinai. The Department does not believe the Egyptian or Jordanian governments were complicit in the smuggling of weapons.

The Department has seen efforts by Egypt during this period to deter smuggling and extremist activity. Egyptian and Israeli security forces have destroyed nearly all smuggling tunnels. The smuggling of arms into Gaza and future tunnel construction nevertheless remain serious concerns. Egyptian military operations in Sinai are ongoing.

No basis exists to determine that smugglers along the Egypt-Gaza border received official support from any foreign person or entity to which U.S. assistance might be given, or to which defense articles or services might be sold by the United States.

## **Executive Summary**

Major points in the report are as follows:

- Palestinian Authority (PA) security forces continued to maintain law and order in areas of the West Bank under full or partial PA security control (Areas A and B). Israeli-Palestinian security coordination continued at both the tactical and leadership levels. Israeli security officials assessed that this coordination prevented numerous terrorist attacks. More effort is required by the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and PA to comply fully with commitments to “prevent violations, discipline violators, and assume responsibility over all PLO elements.” The PA remained committed to peace and non-violence, continued to recognize Israel’s right to exist in peace and security, accepted UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and called upon all Palestinians – even those outside the PLO and PA – to refrain from violence.
- Despite some comments to the contrary by some members, the PLO and PA clam to remain committed to a peaceful, negotiated solution to the conflict. During the reporting period, the Administration released the political component of its Vision for Peace and remained engaged in efforts to advance an enduring and comprehensive peace between Israel and the Palestinians. This included engaging with stakeholders in the region and other members of the international community. The United States continued to oppose one-sided actions in international bodies or treaties that seek to circumvent or prejudge outcomes that can only be negotiated, including Palestinian statehood, or that seek to delegitimize Israel or undermine its security.
- In response to the Middle East Peace Commitments Act requirement that the President (in this case, the Secretary or Deputy Secretary of State) impose one or more of the sanctions in the event of a finding of noncompliance by the PLO or PA, the report and draft determination reflect the decision by the Deputy Secretary of State to deny visas to PLO members and PA officials. In light of the continued utility of engagement with PLO and PA officials aimed at advancing U.S. foreign-policy interests, the package reflects a decision simultaneously to invoke the authority given by the Act to waive the sanction on the basis of U.S. national-security interests. This course of action was also taken in the last iteration of this report.
- As required by section 699 of the Act, the report also addresses arms smuggling by foreign persons or entities, primarily Palestinian terrorist groups, and concludes that such terrorist groups continued their efforts to smuggle weapons into Gaza from or through Egypt (primarily through the Sinai). It notes that Egypt made effort during this period to deter smuggling. There is no indication that smugglers have official support from any foreign person or entity to which assistance might be given or defense articles sold by the United States; therefore, no sanctions determinations under the legislation are required.



Withheld pursuant to exemption

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Withheld pursuant to exemption

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(b)(5)