



**United States Department of State**

*Washington, D.C. 20520*

September 28, 2023

Case No. FL-2022-00031

Mr. 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 August 28, 2023, we are processing your request for material under the Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”), 5 U.S.C. § 552. The Department of State (“Department”) has processed more than 300 pages of potentially responsive material since its last release and has identified an additional 7 responsive records subject to the FOIA. We have determined that all seven records may be released in part.

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. Where applicable, the Department has considered the foreseeable harm standard when reviewing these records and applying FOIA exemptions. 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 United States Attorney, at (202) 252-7229 or [Stephen.DeGenaro@usdoj.gov](mailto:Stephen.DeGenaro@usdoj.gov). 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 stylized, flowing script.

Diamonece Hickson  
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

<b>From:</b>	(b)(6)
<b>To:</b>	Shrier, Jonathan (b)(6)
<b>Subject:</b>	RE: SPOX Lines on PLOCCA/MEPCA in response to Free Beacon Story (1PM deadline)
<b>Date:</b>	Thu, 8 Jul 2021 10:11:32 +0000

(b)(6) let me know that you are in Egypt with limited access so going to pass this on to Michael and keep you copied.

(b)(6)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 8, 2021 11:02 AM  
**To:** Shrier, Jonathan (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Wierichs, F Joe (b)(6); Barrios, Stacy M (b)(6); (b)(6)  
(b)(6) Embassy Jerusalem SA  
<EmbassyJerusalemSA@state.gov>  
**Subject:** SPOX Lines on PLOCCA/MEPCA in response to Free Beacon Story (1PM deadline)

Jonathan,

(b)(5)

Thanks,

(b)(6)

>>>

**BLUF:** "The Biden State Department's latest report to Congress, issued under a mandatory reporting statute included in the 1990 Palestine Liberation Organization Commitments Compliance Act, omits specific references to the Palestinian government's ongoing calls for violence, as well as its support for the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement, which wages economic warfare on Israel."

**Response:**

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

**CLEAR:**

EBO/PO (b)(6)

EBO/PD JWierichs (ok)

EBO/PO (b)(6)

EBO/ECON (info)

EBO/PD SBarrios (ok)

PAU/PO (b)(6)

PAU/ECON (info)

CPA (b)(6)

DCM JShrier

CDA MRatney

**Article:**

Biden Admin Deletes References to Palestinian Terror Incitement From Congressional Report  
State Dept silent on removing references to malign Palestinian behavior in congressionally  
mandated report

Adam Kredo • July 6, 2021 5:15 pm

<https://freebeacon.com/biden-administration/biden-admin-deletes-references-to-palestinian-terror-incitement-from-congressional-report/>

The State Department deleted references to the Palestinian government's terror incitement in a report sent last week to Congress, highlighting what some see as an effort by the Biden administration to downplay Palestinian violence as it restarts U.S. taxpayer aid to the government.

The Biden State Department's latest report to Congress, issued under a mandatory reporting statute included in the 1990 Palestine Liberation Organization Commitments Compliance Act, omits specific references to the Palestinian government's ongoing calls for violence, as well as its support for the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement, which wages economic warfare on Israel. Both issues, which are being closely tracked in Congress, were included in the outgoing Trump administration's October report, according to copies of both reports viewed by the Washington Free Beacon.

Officials in Congress say it is notable that the State Department would omit two closely watched issues in the report, which is otherwise nearly identical to the Trump administration version, fueling accusations the Biden administration is whitewashing the Palestinians' bad behavior. The changes come amid a broader push by the Biden administration to renew hundreds of millions of dollars in taxpayer aid to the Palestinian government, even as it continues to call for Israel's destruction and lend support to the anti-Semitic BDS movement.

The Biden administration's pivot on the Palestinian issue has already been the subject of heightened criticism, including in Congress, as the governing Palestinian Authority continues to use international aid dollars to pay terrorists and their families. The Biden administration approved millions of dollars in U.S. aid to the Palestinians earlier this year over congressional objections and a law that prohibits America from sending aid until the PA stops paying terrorists as part of a program known as "pay to slay."

The Free Beacon obtained copies of both reports and found the Biden administration deleted information about terror incitement and Palestinian support for the BDS movement. The State Department declined to comment on the changes.

Dave Vasquez, press secretary for Sen. Ted Cruz (R., Texas), said the State Department wants to downplay Palestinian incitement in order to stifle debate in Congress. Cruz has been an outspoken critic of U.S. aid to the Palestinian government and the Biden administration's decision to send it.

"The Biden administration is committed to pouring money into Palestinian areas, in defiance of U.S. laws that restrict funding because the Palestinian Authority incites and subsidizes acts of terrorism against Israel," Vasquez said. "It's no wonder this administration would try to downplay that behavior to limit public debate over their controversial policy."

In the latest report, the Biden State Department removed a section of text detailing how Palestinian schools and media outlets routinely employ violent rhetoric.

"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 on maps that show 'Palestine' covering over Israel with indication 'Palestine' will be 'liberated' in the future," the Trump administration's October report stated in a now-removed section.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken promised in June to condition U.S. aid to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, which oversees education in the Palestinian territories, on the agency

removing calls for Israel's destruction from its textbooks. By omitting reporting on this issue from its latest report to Congress, the State Department could be trying to bypass oversight on Blinken's vow.

Another portion on the Arab League's boycotts of Israel omits an entire paragraph detailing how the Palestinian government is undermining regional peace with Israel.

"The PA expressed its strong disapproval of Arab states normalizing relations with Israel," the October report stated in a now-deleted paragraph. "Referring to the [United Arab Emirates'] diplomatic normalization agreement with Israel, [Palestinian president Mahmoud] Abbas said, 'We consider this a stab in the back and we absolutely reject it.'"

The Trump administration's report also stated: "PA diplomats also worked [to] encourage statements, including from the Arab League, condemning normalization. The PA also expressed support for the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement against Israel."

These findings are omitted from the Biden administration's version of the report.

One GOP congressional aide who works on Middle East issues said the Biden administration is attempting to downplay the Palestinian government's anti-Israel actions.

"The Biden administration is shoveling taxpayer money toward the Palestinians, even though the Palestinians use their money to pay for terrorists and attack Israel," said the source, who was not authorized to speak on record. "The American people oppose terrorism and support Israel, so, of course, the State Department wouldn't want to talk about Palestinian behavior."

(b)(6)

Acting Information Officer  
U.S. Embassy Israel - Branch Office Tel Aviv  
Cell: (b)(6)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

<b>Sender:</b>	(b)(6)
<b>Recipient:</b>	Shrier, Jonathan (b)(6)

<b>From:</b>	(b)(6)	(b)(6)
<b>To:</b>	(b)(6)	
<b>Subject:</b>	RE: FINAL: AM to D for PLOCCA Report	
<b>Date:</b>	Fri, 16 Oct 2020 19:41:47 +0000	

Huzzah! Great work (b)(6)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Friday, October 16, 2020 3:31 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: FINAL: AM to D for PLOCCA Report

Thanks much (b)(6)

(b)(6) Director / Office of Israel and Palestinian Affairs (NEA/IPA) / U.S. Department of State / O: +1  
(b)(6) DRSN (b)(6) / M: (b)(6) / npr (b)(6) / sipr:  
(b)(6)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Friday, October 16, 2020 3:22 PM  
**To:** NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL <NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL@state.gov>  
**Cc:** NEA-IPA-DL <NEA-IPA-DL@state.gov>  
**Subject:** FINAL: AM to D for PLOCCA Report

Colleagues,

Happy Friday!

Please find attached the final AM to D package for the latest PLOCCA report. DAS Chris Hodges has cleared and so has the H/FO.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best,

(b)(6)

Political Officer  
Office of Israel and Palestinian Affairs (NEA/IPA)  
Bureau of Near East Affairs



Washington, D.C.

Cell: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

<b>Sender:</b>	(b)(6)	
<b>Recipient:</b>		

<b>From:</b>	(b)(6)
<b>To:</b>	Shrier, Jonathan (b)(6)
<b>Subject:</b>	RE: DMF - FOR APPROVAL: Congressionally Mandated Report on PLO Compliance
<b>Date:</b>	Tue, 7 Apr 2020 07:48:36 +0000

Hi Jonathan,

Have you seen PLOCCA go back to DC already or come back to us after this exchange? Just want to make sure I am tracking the latest.

Thanks,

(b)(6) | Staff Assistant | U.S. Embassy Jerusalem | Branch Office Tel Aviv

(b)(6)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

**From:** Friedman, David M (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 25, 2020 7:59 PM  
**To:** Shrier, Jonathan (b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6) (b)(6)  
 (b)(6) (b)(6) Berkowitz, Avraham J.  
 (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Re: DMF - FOR APPROVAL: Congressionally Mandated Report on PLO Compliance

+ Avi

(b)(5); (b)(6)

---

**From:** Shrier, Jonathan (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 25, 2020 4:32 PM  
**To:** Friedman, David M  
**Cc:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** DMF - FOR APPROVAL: Congressionally Mandated Report on PLO Compliance

Mr. Ambassador: Attached for your approval is the semi-annual report on PLO compliance with counterterrorism and peace undertakings, mandated by Congress. Several of us, including (b)(6) (b)(6) have reviewed it thoroughly. It is ready for your final chop, this week if possible. A second Congressionally mandated report, on incitement, is heading your way today or tomorrow.

Jonathan

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

---

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 25, 2020 3:56 PM  
**To:** Shrier, Jonathan (b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6); Embassy Jerusalem SA  
<EmbassyJerusalemSA@state.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: Two Congressional Reports for FO Clearance

Hi Jonathan,

You now have for review both PLOCCA and the final (I am promised now truly final) Incitement Report. I am also told IPA Office Director (b)(6) has reached out with a keen interest in getting PLOCCA back to DC asap, so that one is the clear priority. My light, non-substantive touch-ups in the attached.

As far as flow, I defer to you on whether you would like to share these with Ambassador Friedman for approval or route back through (b)(6) and I, after you review.

Thank you,

(b)(6)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

---

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 24, 2020 4:17 PM  
**To:** Shrier, Jonathan (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Embassy Jerusalem SA <EmbassyJerusalemSA@state.gov> (b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
**Subject:** Re: Two Congressional Reports for FO Clearance

(b)(5)

Thank you for your review.

(b)(6)

**From**

(b)(6)

**Sent:** Monday, March 23, 2020 3:52 AM

**To:** (b)(6)

Embassy Jerusalem SA

<EmbassyJerusalemSA@state.gov>

**Cc:** (b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

**Subject:** Two Congressional Reports for FO Clearance

(b)(6)

(b)(5)

Many thanks and all the best,

(b)(6)

**Sender:** (b)(6)

**Recipient:** Shrier, Jonathan (b)(6)

<b>From:</b>	(b)(6)
	Sawyer, Julie L. EOP/NSC (b)(6)
<b>To:</b>	(b)(6)
	Evans, Patrick L. EOP/NSC (b)(6)
<b>CC:</b>	(b)(6)
<b>Subject:</b>	RE: CLEARANCE: Response to Free Beacon Article on PLOCCA/MEPCA
<b>Date:</b>	Wed, 7 Jul 2021 15:54:35 +0000

(b)(5)

---

**From:** Sawyer, Julie L. EOP/NSC (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 7, 2021 11:28 AM  
**To:** Pardo, Greg <PardoG@state.gov>; Evans, Patrick L. EOP/NSC (b)(6)  
**C:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: CLEARANCE: Response to Free Beacon Article on PLOCCA/MEPCA

(b)(5)

---

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 7, 2021 11:24 AM  
**To:** Sawyer, Julie L. EOP/NSC (b)(6) Evans, Patrick L. EOP/NSC  
(b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** CLEARANCE: Response to Free Beacon Article on PLOCCA/MEPCA  
**Importance:** High

(b)(6)

Apologies for the short-turn around request. For your clearance, here's our response to the Free Beacon article on the PLOCCA/MEPCA.

Thanks!

(b)(6)

• (b)(5)

•

•

•

•

•

•

Biden Admin Deletes References to Palestinian Terror Incitement From Congressional Report

State Dept silent on removing references to malign Palestinian behavior in congressionally mandated report

Adam Kredo • July 6, 2021 5:15 pm

<https://freebeacon.com/biden-administration/biden-admin-deletes-references-to-palestinian-terror-incitement-from-congressional-report/>

The State Department deleted references to the Palestinian government's terror incitement in a report sent last week to Congress, highlighting what some see as an effort by the Biden administration to downplay Palestinian violence as it restarts U.S. taxpayer aid to the government.

The Biden State Department's latest report to Congress, issued under a mandatory reporting statute included in the 1990 Palestine Liberation Organization Commitments Compliance Act, omits specific references to the Palestinian government's ongoing calls for violence, as well as its support for the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement, which wages economic warfare on Israel. Both issues, which are being closely tracked in Congress, were included in the outgoing Trump administration's October report, according to copies of both reports viewed by the Washington Free Beacon.

Officials in Congress say it is notable that the State Department would omit two closely watched issues in the report, which is otherwise nearly identical to the Trump administration version, fueling accusations the Biden administration is whitewashing the Palestinians' bad behavior. The changes come amid a broader push by the Biden administration to renew hundreds of millions of dollars in taxpayer aid to the Palestinian government, even as it continues to call for Israel's destruction and lend support to the anti-Semitic BDS movement.

The Biden administration's pivot on the Palestinian issue has already been the subject of heightened criticism, including in Congress, as the governing Palestinian Authority continues to use international aid dollars to pay terrorists and their families. The Biden administration approved millions of dollars in U.S. aid to the Palestinians earlier this year over congressional objections and a law that prohibits America from sending aid until the PA stops paying terrorists as part of a program known as "pay to slay."

The Free Beacon obtained copies of both reports and found the Biden administration deleted information about terror incitement and Palestinian support for the BDS movement. The State Department declined to comment on the changes.

Dave Vasquez, press secretary for Sen. Ted Cruz (R., Texas), said the State Department wants to downplay Palestinian incitement in order to stifle debate in Congress. Cruz has been an outspoken critic of U.S. aid to the Palestinian government and the Biden administration's decision to send it.

"The Biden administration is committed to pouring money into Palestinian areas, in defiance of U.S. laws that restrict funding because the Palestinian Authority incites and subsidizes acts of

terrorism against Israel," Vasquez said. "It's no wonder this administration would try to downplay that behavior to limit public debate over their controversial policy."

In the latest report, the Biden State Department removed a section of text detailing how Palestinian schools and media outlets routinely employ violent rhetoric.

"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 on maps that show 'Palestine' covering over Israel with indication 'Palestine' will be 'liberated' in the future," the Trump administration's October report stated in a now-removed section.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken promised in June to condition U.S. aid to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, which oversees education in the Palestinian territories, on the agency removing calls for Israel's destruction from its textbooks. By omitting reporting on this issue from its latest report to Congress, the State Department could be trying to bypass oversight on Blinken's vow.

Another portion on the Arab League's boycotts of Israel omits an entire paragraph detailing how the Palestinian government is undermining regional peace with Israel.

"The PA expressed its strong disapproval of Arab states normalizing relations with Israel," the October report stated in a now-deleted paragraph. "Referring to the [United Arab Emirates'] diplomatic normalization agreement with Israel, [Palestinian president Mahmoud] Abbas said, 'We consider this a stab in the back and we absolutely reject it.'"

The Trump administration's report also stated: "PA diplomats also worked [to] encourage statements, including from the Arab League, condemning normalization. The PA also expressed support for the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement against Israel."

These findings are omitted from the Biden administration's version of the report.

One GOP congressional aide who works on Middle East issues said the Biden administration is attempting to downplay the Palestinian government's anti-Israel actions.

"The Biden administration is shoveling taxpayer money toward the Palestinians, even though the Palestinians use their money to pay for terrorists and attack Israel," said the source, who was not authorized to speak on record. "The American people oppose terrorism and support Israel, so, of course, the State Department wouldn't want to talk about Palestinian behavior."

(b)(6)

Political Officer/Acting Press Officer  
Office of Israel and Palestinian Affairs (IPA)  
Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs (NEA)



U.S. Department of State  
Washington, D.C.

(b)(6)

**Sender:**

(b)(6)

Sawyer, Julie L. EOP/NSC

(b)(6)

**Recipient:**

(b)(6)

Evans, Patrick L. EOP/NSC

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

**From:** (b)(6)  
**To:** (b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: CLEARANCE: PLOCCA/MEPCA Report  
**Date:** Wed, 6 May 2020 18:24:31 +0000

Thank you (b)(6)

---

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 6, 2020 2:12 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Re: CLEARANCE: PLOCCA/MEPCA Report

Edits:

(b)(5)

---

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 6, 2020 1:02 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Re: CLEARANCE: PLOCCA/MEPCA Report

Thanks (b)(6) adding L/UNA as (b)(6) (b)(5)  
(b)(5)

---

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 6, 2020 12:54 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** FW: CLEARANCE: PLOCCA/MEPCA Report

(b)(6) just checking if (b)(6) recommended language is okay? Once we clear this, it's off (b)(6)  
Finally. ☺ (b)(6)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

---

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 6, 2020 12:09 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Re: CLEARANCE: PLOCCA/MEPCA Report

H (b)(6) (b)(5); (b)(6)

(b)(5)

(b)(6)

---

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 5, 2020 5:31 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** CLEARANCE: PLOCCA/MEPCA Report

(b)(6)

(b)(5); (b)(6)

Best,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Political Officer  
Office of Israel and Palestinian Affairs (NEA/IPA)  
Bureau of Near East Affairs  
Washington, D.C.

(b)(6)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

**Sender:**

(b)(6)

**Recipient:**

(b)(6)

**From:** (b)(6)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: CLEARANCE: PLOCCA/MEPCA Report  
**Date:** Mon, 4 May 2020 18:43:31 +0000

sure! no rush. (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Political Officer  
Office of Israel and Palestinian Affairs (IPA)  
Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs (NEA)  
U.S. Department of State  
Washington, D.C.

(b)(6)

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Monday, May 4, 2020 2:38 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Re: CLEARANCE: PLOCCA/MEPCA Report

Thanks, Greg! Mind if I take a look later tonight once I'm on GO?

(b)(6)

NEA/IPA

(b)(6)

**Sent:** Monday, May 4, 2020 2:28 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Fw: CLEARANCE: PLOCCA/MEPCA Report

(b)(5)

(b)(6)

Political Officer  
Office of Israel and Palestinian Affairs (IPA)  
Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs (NEA)  
U.S. Department of State  
Washington, D.C.

(b)(6)

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Monday, May 4, 2020 1:31 PM  
**To:** (b)(6); GPA-Specials <GPA-Specials@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: CLEARANCE: PLOCCA/MEPCA Report

(b)(5)

(b)(6)

Political Officer  
Office of Israel and Palestinian Affairs (IPA)  
Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs (NEA)  
U.S. Department of State

(b)(6)

PardoG@state.gov

**From:** (b)(6)

**Sent:** Monday, May 4, 2020 12:03 PM

**To:** (b)(6) GPA-Specials <GPA-Specials@state.gov>

**Subject:** Re: CLEARANCE: PLOCCA/MEPCA Report

(b)(5)

(b)(6)

Special Assistant | Front Office  
U.S. Department of State  
Bureau of Global Public Affairs

(b)(6)

**From:** (b)(6)

**Sent:** Monday, May 4, 2020 10:28 AM

**To:** (b)(6) Specials <GPA-Specials@state.gov>

**Subject:** Re: CLEARANCE: PLOCCA/MEPCA Report

(b)(5)

(b)(6)

Political Officer  
Office of Israel and Palestinian Affairs (IPA)  
Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs (NEA)  
U.S. Department of State  
Washington, D.C.

(b)(6)

**From:** (b)(6)

**Sent:** Friday, May 1, 2020 7:20 PM

**To:** (b)(6) GPA-Specials <GPA-Specials@state.gov>

**Subject:** Re: CLEARANCE: PLOCCA/MEPCA Report

(b)(5)

(b)(6)

Special Assistant | Front Office  
U.S. Department of State  
Bureau of Global Public Affairs

(b)(6)



From (b)(6)

Sent: Friday, May 1, 2020 5:44 PM

To: (b)(6) GPA-Specials <GPA-Specials@state.gov>

Subject: RE: CLEARANCE: PLOCCA/MEPCA Report

(b)(5)

From (b)(6)

Sent: Friday, May 1, 2020 5:33 PM

To: (b)(6) GPA-Specials <GPA-Specials@state.gov>

Subject: Re: CLEARANCE: PLOCCA/MEPCA Report

(b)(5)

Thanks (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Special Assistant | Front Office  
U.S. Department of State  
Bureau of Global Public Affairs

(b)(6)



**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Friday, May 1, 2020 5:22 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)-Specials <GPA-Specials@state.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: CLEARANCE: PLOCCA/MEPCA Report

(b)(5)

---

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Friday, May 1, 2020 5:20 PM  
**To:** (b)(6) GPA-Specials <GPA-Specials@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: CLEARANCE: PLOCCA/MEPCA Report

(b)(5)

(b)(6)  
Special Assistant | Front Office  
U.S. Department of State  
Bureau of Global Public Affairs  
Telework: (b)(6)



---

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Friday, May 1, 2020 5:13 PM  
**To:** GPA-Specials <GPA-Specials@state.gov>  
**Subject:** CLEARANCE: PLOCCA/MEPCA Report

Colleagues,

(b)(5)

(b)(6)  
Political Officer  
Office of Israel and Palestinian Affairs (NEA/IPA)  
Bureau of Near East Affairs  
Washington, D.C.

(b)(6)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

**Sender:** (b)(6) />



**Recipient:**

(b)(6)

**From:** (b)(6)  
**To:** H\_Clearances <HClearances@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Fw: CLEARANCE: 2020 PLOCCA/MEPCA report  
**Date:** Mon, 27 Apr 2020 16:39:17 +0000

Colleagues, just checking on the status of the clearance request below. Thank you. Best (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Office of Israel and Palestinian Affairs (IPA)  
Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs (NEA)  
U.S. Department of State  
Washington, D.C.

(b)(6)

**From** (b)(6)

**Sent:** Monday, April 13, 2020 3:47 PM

**To** (b)(6)

; H\_Clearances <HClearances@state.gov> (b)(6)

(b)(6) NEA <SP\_NEA@state.gov>; R\_Clearances <R\_Clearances@state.gov>;

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

**Cc** (b)(6)

**Subject:** CLEARANCE: 2020 PLOCCA/MEPCA report

Colleagues,

Attached for your clearance is the Action Memo along with the 2020 PLOCCA/MEPCA report.

Please let me know if you have any questions or suggestions.

Best,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Office of Israel and Palestinian Affairs (NEA/IPA)  
Bureau of Near East Affairs  
Washington, D.C.

(b)(6)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

**Sender:** (b)(6)**Recipient:** H\_Clearances <HClearances@state.gov>

**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)**

(b)(5)



Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)



### **Executive Summary**

Major points in the report are as follows:

(b)(5)

**United States Department of State*****Washington, D.C. 20520*****~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~**

April 10, 2020

**ACTION MEMO FOR THE DEPUTY SECRETARY**

FROM: NEA – David Schenker  
H – Mary Elizabeth Taylor

SUBJECT: ~~(SBU)~~ Report to Congress under the Palestine Liberation Organization Commitments Compliance Act (PLOCCA) and the Middle East Peace Commitments Act (MEPCA), and Determination Imposing and Waiving Sanctions

**BLUF:**

(b)(5)

**Recommendations**

(b)(5)

**Background**

~~(SBU)~~ The PLO Commitments Compliance Act of 1989 (PLOCCA) and the Middle East Peace Commitments Act (title VI of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 2003 (MEPCA) require the President to determine whether the PLO and Palestinian Authority (PA) are in compliance with certain conditions specified in the legislation, to include renouncing violence, preventing terrorism, and disciplining PLO elements and personnel for violations. If the President determines the PLO and/or PA are not in compliance, MEPCA requires that he impose one or more sanctions from a list provided. The legislation provides a waiver for the President to set aside the selected sanction if he determines it is in the U.S. national security interest to do so. The President has delegated these functions to the Secretary of State.

~~(SBU)~~ On October 2, 2019 former Deputy Secretary of State John J. Sullivan approved the last report and determination, which imposed – then waived – the sanction of denying visas to PLO

**~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~****~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~**



members and PA officials. This was coordinated with White House and NSC staff. (b)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

~~(SBU)~~ Former Deputy Secretary of State John J. Sullivan approved the September 2019 report on October 2, 2020, signed the accompanying determination, and authorized the transmission of the report and determination to Congress and its publication in the *Federal Register*. This report and determination were due to the Congress on March 19, 2020. The report is late due to the recent COVID-19 crisis, which delayed the clearance process when offices transitioned to a teleworking posture. There are no assistance-related ramifications of this report, determination, and waiver package.

(U) Upon your signature, H will transmit the report and determination to Congress, and NEA will publish the determination in the *Federal Register*. You have authority to take this action pursuant to Delegation of Authority 245-2.



Attachments:

- Tab 1 – Executive Summary
- Tab 2 – Proposed Report
- Tab 3 – Transmittal Letters
- Tab 4 – Draft Determination (Imposition of Sanction and Waiver)
- Tab 5 – PLO Commitments Compliance Act of 1989, as amended and Foreign Relations Authorization Act, FY 2003, Title VI (MEPCA) and Section 699
- Tab 6 – President’s Delegation of Functions, dated March 14, 1990
- Tab 7 – President’s Delegation of Functions, dated April 30, 2009

Approved: NEA: David Schenker ()  
H: Mary Elizabeth Taylor ()

Drafted: NEA/IPA: (b)(6)

Cleared: NEA/FO: (b)(6)  
NEA/FO: (b)(6)  
NEA/IPA: (b)(6)  
NEA/IPA: (b)(6)  
D: (b)(6)  
P: (b)(6)  
S/P: (b)(6)  
CT: (b)(6)  
NEA/EGY: (b)(6)  
NEA/RMA: (b)(6)  
H: (b)(6)  
INR/NEA: (b)(6)  
L/AN: (b)(6) OK  
L/UNA: (b)(6) OK  
Embassy Jerusalem: DFriedman OK