

From: e-Dear Colleague

Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2010

To:

Subject: ForeignAffairs: Dear Colleague: Support an End to the Incitement of Hatred on Palestinian Authority Television

Support an End to the Incitement of Hatred on Palestinian Authority Television

From: The Honorable Steven R. Rothman

Sent By: jonathan.moore@mail.house.gov

Date: 2/23/2010

Support an End to the Incitement of Hatred on Palestinian Authority Television

*Sign a Bipartisan Letter to PA President Abbas Urging Him to Denounce
Anti-Jewish Statements Made in Palestinian Broadcasting Programs*

Deadline COB Friday, February 26

Dear Colleague:

As you know, the Performance-Based Roadmap to a Permanent Two-State Solution to the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict (Road Map) outlines several steps for the two parties to take to reach a comprehensive settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. One of the first steps to be taken is for the Palestinian leadership to issue an unequivocal statement acknowledging Israel's right to exist in peace and security, and to end incitement against Israel by official Palestinian institutions.

During a recent interview with [Haaretz](#), which was published on December 16, 2009, the President of the Palestinian Authority, Mahmud Abbas, stated that the Palestinians have met those goals, declaring that:

The road map made demands of all parties. We were required to stop terror attacks, recognize Israel and even stop incitement. So come and see what we did. Although the joint committee against incitement is no longer active, we did act and are acting against incitement. They said there is a problem with incitement in speeches in mosques during Friday prayers. Today there is no more incitement at any mosque.

However, during a Friday sermon to the Bourin Mosque in Nablus, which aired on Palestinian Authority television on January 29, 2010, an unnamed imam made hateful,

outrageous statements against Israel saying that Jews are the enemy of Palestinians and that they must be killed. Specifically he said, [“Jews will always be Jews. Even if donkeys cease to bray, dogs cease to bark, wolves cease to howl, and snakes cease to bite, the Jews will not cease to be hostile to the Muslims.”](#)

These remarks are untrue, appalling and should not be aired on the network belonging to the Palestinian Authority, which has received more than \$679 million in direct assistance from the United States since 2007. Statements such as these harm the peace process that everyone is working toward. That is why we are sending a letter to President Abbas to bring these remarks to his attention and urging him to condemn the imam and his sermon. We are also asking him to clarify the editorial position of the Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation with respect to incitement of hatred against Israel or Jews and update us on steps he is taking to end such incitement.

Please join us in sending this bipartisan letter to President Mahmud Abbas to urge him to truly end anti-Israel and anti-Jewish incitement so that peace negotiations can get back on track and Palestinians and Israelis can live together as neighbors, in their own sovereign lands, in peace. To sign the letter, please contact Jonathan Moore (Rothman) at 5-5061 or jonathan.moore@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

//s// STEVEN R. ROTHMAN
Member of Congress

//s// SUE WILKINS MYRICK
Member of Congress

February X, 2010

The Honorable Mahmud Abbas
President of the Palestinian National Authority

Dear Mr. President:

We write to convey our deepest concern over the recent statements calling for the killing of Jews made by an imam that were broadcast by the Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation. These statements are unacceptable and do harm to the prospect of peace between Palestinians and Israelis.

During a Friday sermon to the Bourin Mosque in Nablus, which aired on Palestinian Authority television on January 29, 2010, an unnamed imam made the type of disparaging statements you have spoken out against. The imam said that Jews are the enemy of Palestinians and that they must be killed. Specifically he declared, "Jews will always be Jews. Even if donkeys cease to bray, dogs cease to bark, wolves cease to howl, and snakes cease to bite, the Jews will not cease to be hostile to the Muslims." These remarks are incredibly offensive and a clear example of incitement during Friday prayers.

Stopping incitement is a noble and praiseworthy goal that must be achieved. The steps you have taken to condemn incitement and terrorist attacks have been very encouraging. We are particularly encouraged by your interview with Haaretz, which was published on December 16, 2009. During that interview, you stated that:

The road map made demands of all parties. We were required to stop terror attacks, recognize Israel and even stop incitement. So come and see what we did. Although the joint committee against incitement is no longer active, we did act and are acting against incitement. They said there is a problem with incitement in speeches in mosques during Friday prayers. Today there is no more incitement at any mosque.

We respectfully urge you to condemn this imam and his statements in the strongest possible language. We also request that you clarify the editorial position of the Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation with respect to incitement of any kind. We further respectfully request that you share with us the steps you have taken and will take to ensure that this type of incitement will not happen again.

It is our hope that an independent state of Palestine can be realized, alongside the Jewish State of Israel, so that Palestinians and Israelis can live as neighbors in peace. Remarks such as those made by this imam make this goal harder to achieve, and we encourage you to do everything in your power to end such incitement to hatred.

Sincerely,