

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 31, 2025

The Honorable Marco Rubio  
Secretary  
United States Department of State  
2201 C Street NW,  
Washington, DC 20520

The Honorable Mike Huckabee  
U.S. Ambassador to Israel  
U.S. Embassy Jerusalem  
14 David Flusser  
Jerusalem 9378322, Israel

Russell Vought  
Acting Administrator  
United States Agency for International Development  
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue NW,  
Washington, DC 20523

Dear Secretary Rubio, Acting Administrator Vought, and Ambassador Huckabee,

We write to obtain additional information about the State Department's (State's) decision to award \$30 million to the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF) in late June.<sup>1</sup>

Starving civilians should not be shot at while desperately trying to reach food supplies. But in the weeks since the State Department issued funding to GHF, the private security contractors GHF employs to distribute aid in Gaza have used live ammunition, pepper spray and stun grenades on civilians near GHF sites.<sup>2</sup> Eyewitnesses describe the situation as, "a killing field,"<sup>3</sup> and the UN reported that as of August 13, 994 Palestinians have died near GHF sites since the organization started its operations in late May.<sup>4</sup> Disturbing video footage from May 29, 2025 – weeks before the State award to GHF – appears to show GHF security contractors shooting at a Palestinian man near an aid site.<sup>5</sup> An Army Green Beret who served for 25 years before becoming a

<sup>1</sup> New York Times, "U.S. Approves \$30 Million for Contentious New Gaza Aid Group," Ephrat Livni, June 26, 2025, <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/06/26/world/middleeast/us-30-million-gaza-humanitarian-foundation.html>.

<sup>2</sup> The Associated Press, "US contractors say their colleagues are firing live ammo as Palestinians seek food in Gaza," Julia Frankel and Sam Mednick, July 3, 2025, <https://apnews.com/article/palestinians-israel-gaza-contractors-aid-distribution-fe27f3ea83e06a09d66424eed7a5d56f>.

<sup>3</sup> Haaretz, "It's a Killing Field: IDF Soldiers Ordered to Shoot Deliberately at Unarmed Gazans Waiting for Humanitarian Aid", Nir Hasson, Yaniv Kubovich, and Bar Peleg, June 27, 2025, <https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/2025-06-27/ty-article-magazine/.premium/idf-soldiers-ordered-to-shoot-deliberately-at-unarmed-gazans-waiting-for-humanitarian-aid/00000197-ad8e-de01-a39f-ffbe33780000>.

<sup>4</sup> United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, "Today's top news: Occupied Palestinian Territory, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Afghanistan, Ukraine, Central Emergency Response Fund," August 15, 2025, <https://www.unocha.org/news/todays-top-news-occupied-palestinian-territory-democratic-republic-congo-afghanistan-ukraine>.

<sup>5</sup> BBC, "I witnessed war crimes' in Gaza, former worker at GHF aid site tells BBC," July 26, 2025; <https://www.bbc.com/news/videos/cy8k8045nx9c>; Haaretz, "I Witnessed War Crimes' in Gaza, U.S. Veteran and Former GHF Worker Tells BBC," July 26, 2025, <https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/2025-07-26/ty-article/i-witnessed-war-crimes-in-gaza-u-s-veteran-and-former-ghf-worker-tells-bbc/00000198-47e0-d6be-a1bd-4ffd67f90000>; PBS, "Security contractor says he witnessed 'barbaric' and un-American tactics at Gaza aid sites,"

contractor at GHF's aid sites recently said he witnessed "Israeli Defense Forces shooting at the crowds of Palestinians."<sup>6</sup> Israel Defense Forces (IDF) soldiers stationed close to aid sites have also come forward to report that they were instructed to shoot at crowds gathering near GHF distribution points, "even though it was clear they posed no threat."<sup>7</sup>

Many concerns were raised prior to the US funding GHF, including the organization's lack of experience with food distribution, significant leadership turmoil, and the absence of transparency regarding any of its funders.<sup>8</sup> You ignored those concerns, and since the funds were awarded to GHF, the situation in Gaza has become even more dire: on August 22 the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) declared the first confirmed famine in the Middle East in northern Gaza, with two million people facing severe hunger and "starvation is present and is rapidly spreading."<sup>9</sup> According to an analysis by the UN and its partners, "The worst-case scenario of Famine is currently playing out in the Gaza Strip [as] access to food and other essential items and services has plummeted to unprecedented levels."<sup>10</sup> The World Food Programme has indicated that one in five people in Gaza face starvation, "with a third of the population not eating for multiple days in a row", and the IPC notes that the proportion of households in Gaza facing extreme hunger doubled between May and July.<sup>11</sup> Reports indicate that, "morbidity levels among children in the Gaza Strip were alarmingly high" as 20,000 children were admitted to hospitals for acute malnutrition in recent months, 3,000 of whom were severely malnourished.<sup>12</sup>

---

Amna Nawaz, Geoff Bennet, and Nick Schiffrin, August 1, 2025, <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/u-s-whistleblower-describes-chaos-and-reckless-force-at-gaza-aid-sites>.

<sup>6</sup> *Id.*; Haaretz, "I Witnessed War Crimes' in Gaza, U.S. Veteran and Former GHF Worker Tells BBC," July 26, 2025, <https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/2025-07-26/ty-article/i-witnessed-war-crimes-in-gaza-u-s-veteran-and-former-ghf-worker-tells-bbc/00000198-47e0-d6be-a1bd-4ffd67f90000>.

<sup>7</sup> Haaretz, "It's a Killing Field': IDF Soldiers Ordered to Shoot Deliberately at Unarmed Gazans Waiting for Humanitarian Aid", Nir Hasson, Yaniv Kubovich, and Bar Peleg, June 27, 2025, <https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/2025-06-27/ty-article-magazine/premium/idf-soldiers-ordered-to-shoot-deliberately-at-unarmed-gazans-waiting-for-humanitarian-aid/00000197-ad8e-de01-a39f-ffb33780000>.

<sup>8</sup> Letter from Senator Elizabeth Warren to the Department of State, USAID on the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, June 19, 2025, [https://www.warren.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/letter\\_from\\_senator\\_warren\\_to\\_the\\_department\\_of\\_state\\_usaid\\_on\\_the\\_gaza\\_humanitarian\\_foundation.pdf](https://www.warren.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/letter_from_senator_warren_to_the_department_of_state_usaid_on_the_gaza_humanitarian_foundation.pdf).

<sup>9</sup> Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, "GAZA STRIP: Famine confirmed in Gaza Governorate, projected to expand," August 22, 2025, pp 1, [https://www.ipcinfo.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/ipcinfo/docs/IPC\\_Gaza\\_Strip\\_Acute\\_Food\\_Insecurity\\_Malnutrition\\_July\\_Sept2025\\_Special\\_Snapshot.pdf](https://www.ipcinfo.org/fileadmin/user_upload/ipcinfo/docs/IPC_Gaza_Strip_Acute_Food_Insecurity_Malnutrition_July_Sept2025_Special_Snapshot.pdf); CBS News, "Food crisis body declares first-ever famine in Gaza," Associated Press, <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/gaza-famine-declaration-israel-rejects-un-backed-ipc-report/>; New York Times, "Gaza City and Surrounding Areas Are Officially Under Famine, Monitors Say", August 22, 2025, <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/08/22/world/middleeast/famine-gaza-city-israel.html>.

<sup>10</sup> Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, "Worst-case scenario of Famine unfolding in the Gaza Strip," July 29, 2025, [https://www.ipcinfo.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/ipcinfo/docs/IPC\\_GazaStrip\\_Alert\\_July2025.pdf](https://www.ipcinfo.org/fileadmin/user_upload/ipcinfo/docs/IPC_GazaStrip_Alert_July2025.pdf).

<sup>11</sup> UN News, "People dying from lack of aid every day in Gaza: WFP official," July 21, 2025, <https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/07/1165454>; Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, "GAZA STRIP: Famine confirmed in Gaza Governorate, projected to expand," August 22, 2025, pp 1-2, [https://www.ipcinfo.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/ipcinfo/docs/IPC\\_Gaza\\_Strip\\_Acute\\_Food\\_Insecurity\\_Malnutrition\\_July\\_Sept2025\\_Special\\_Snapshot.pdf](https://www.ipcinfo.org/fileadmin/user_upload/ipcinfo/docs/IPC_Gaza_Strip_Acute_Food_Insecurity_Malnutrition_July_Sept2025_Special_Snapshot.pdf).

<sup>12</sup> *Id.*

State and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) appear to have ignored critical legal and humanitarian concerns about GHF raised by its own staff and multiple warnings from Congress in making the decision to award these funds to GHF.<sup>13</sup> Several Senators raised these concerns in a previous letter.<sup>14</sup> The Department's inability to answer basic questions about GHF in a timely manner is unacceptable and gives the appearance that the Trump Administration cannot defend its decision-making process. The State Department should immediately cease funding GHF and transfer or restore funding to experienced aid organizations given the strong and growing evidence that GHF is failing to accomplish its humanitarian mission.<sup>15</sup>

### **State Ignored Clear Warning Signs And Internal Protocols In Its Decision to Fund GHF**

According to press reports, State overrode 58 objections raised by USAID staff and waived nine counter-terrorism and anti-fraud requirements before the June approval of \$30 million in funding for GHF.<sup>16</sup> On June 20, USAID staff specifically raised concerns that State should not award money to GHF "given operational and reputational risks and lack of oversight."<sup>17</sup> Among the concerns raised in their review, one official noted that GHF's application lacked basic details about the location of proposed sites, contained inconsistencies in budget line items, did not address how the organization would "Do No Harm", and did "not provide sufficient information to ensure that aid will reach intended recipients."<sup>18</sup> Indeed, it seems that USAID staff's objections to GHF were well founded, as an expert assessment of the food that GHF has distributed in Gaza thus far found that, "most of the food items are not ready-to-eat and require water and fuel to cook, which are largely unavailable."<sup>19</sup> Since the funds were approved for GHF, neither its contract with the US government nor any details of the award have been made public as mandated by US law.<sup>20</sup>

State's overriding of internal protocol and staff warnings is particularly concerning given it is unlikely to be able to conduct basic oversight of the funds it provided to GHF. As the USAID

---

<sup>13</sup> Reuters, "Former DOGE official rushed grant to Trump-backed Gaza aid group over staff objections," Jonathan Landay, <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/former-doge-official-rushed-grant-trump-backed-gaza-aid-group-over-staff-2025-07-09/>; Letter from Senator Elizabeth Warren to the Department of State, USAID on the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, June 19, 2025, [https://www.warren.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/letter\\_from\\_senator\\_warren\\_to\\_the\\_department\\_of\\_state\\_usaid\\_on\\_the\\_gaza\\_humanitarian\\_foundation.pdf](https://www.warren.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/letter_from_senator_warren_to_the_department_of_state_usaid_on_the_gaza_humanitarian_foundation.pdf); Letter from Senator Chris Van Hollen and Senator Peter Welch to the Department of State on the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, July 27, 2025, [https://www.vanhollen.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/van\\_hollen\\_ghf\\_letter.pdf](https://www.vanhollen.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/van_hollen_ghf_letter.pdf).

<sup>14</sup> *Id.*

<sup>15</sup> NBC News, "Israeli forces in Gaza kill dozens of Palestinians seeking aid, health officials say," Chantal Da Silva, June 3, 2025, <https://www.nbcnews.com/world/gaza/israeli-forces-gaza-kill-27-palestinians-seeking-aid-health-officials-rcna210544>.

<sup>16</sup> Reuters, "Former DOGE official rushed grant to Trump-backed Gaza aid group over staff objections," Jonathan Landay, <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/former-doge-official-rushed-grant-trump-backed-gaza-aid-group-over-staff-2025-07-09/>.

<sup>17</sup> CNN, "USAID review raised 'critical concerns' over Gaza aid group days before \$30 million US grant," Yahya Abou-Ghazala and Jennifer Hansler, July 8, 2025, <https://www.cnn.com/2025/07/08/us/usaid-gaza-humanitarian-foundation-israel-grant>.

<sup>18</sup> *Id.*

<sup>19</sup> Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, "Worst-case scenario of Famine unfolding in the Gaza Strip," July 29, 2025, [https://www.ipcinfo.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/ipcinfo/docs/IPC\\_GazaStrip\\_Alert\\_July2025.pdf](https://www.ipcinfo.org/fileadmin/user_upload/ipcinfo/docs/IPC_GazaStrip_Alert_July2025.pdf).

<sup>20</sup> Digital Accountability and Transparency Act of 2014, PL 113-101; Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act PL 109-39.

Inspector General warned in a February 2025 report, the Trump Administration’s dismantlement of USAID left oversight of humanitarian aid “largely nonoperational.”<sup>21</sup> The Inspector General report also noted that the administration had eliminated the teams responsible for “partner vetting and third party monitoring” of the United States’s humanitarian aid, two essential oversight mechanisms which ensure that “USAID programming was delivered as intended.”<sup>22</sup>

It is unclear whether State completed these critical partner vetting or third party monitoring checks at any point prior to awarding GHF or its subcontractors \$30 million of US taxpayer funds.

Furthermore, the Trump Administration’s decisions to move a small portion of USAID personnel into State and fire the rest of USAID’s staff at the beginning of July have depleted the US government’s ability to assess the effectiveness of aid organizations for compliance with human rights requirements and US law.<sup>23</sup> As the USAID Inspector General has noted, “[R]ecent widespread staffing reductions across the Agency... coupled with uncertainty about the scope of foreign assistance waivers and permissible communications with implementers, has degraded USAID’s ability to distribute and safeguard taxpayer-funded humanitarian assistance.”<sup>24</sup>

### **GHF’s Actions Raise Questions of Compliance with Laws and Norms Regarding the Provision of Humanitarian Aid**

In addition to operational lapses in State’s decision to fund GHF, it appears your agency has also overlooked legal questions surrounding the practices of the other organizations that GHF contracts with. Indeed, it appears that the contractors GHF employs to distribute aid to Palestinians also provide military intelligence services to the IDF, violating longstanding norms around humanitarian neutrality and impartiality in war zones and raising questions regarding compliance with US laws on the export of defense services.<sup>25</sup> One of these contractors—Safe Reach Solutions (SRS), which was set up in 2023 with no prior experience in humanitarian aid distribution—is reportedly conducting intelligence operations in Gaza.<sup>26</sup> According to reports,

---

<sup>21</sup> Associated Press, “Watchdog: Trump’s dismantling of USAID means billions in unspent aid now lacks oversight,” Ellen Knickmeyer, February 10, 2025, <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/world/watchdog-trumps-dismantling-of-usaid-means-billions-in-unspent-aid-now-lack-oversight>.

<sup>22</sup> U.S. Agency for International Development, Office of Inspector General “Oversight of USAID-Funded Humanitarian Assistance Programming Impacted by Staffing Reductions and Pause on Foreign Assistance,” February 10, 2025, pp.3-4, <https://oig.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/2025-02/USAID%20OIG%20-%20Oversight%20of%20USAID-Funded%20Humanitarian%20Assistance%20Programming%20021025.pdf>.

<sup>23</sup> NPR, “USAID officially shuts down and merges remaining operations with State Department,” Fatma Tanis and Leila Fadel, <https://www.npr.org/2025/07/01/nx-s1-5451372/usaid-officially-shuts-down-and-merges-remaining-operations-with-state-department>.

<sup>24</sup> U.S. Agency for International Development, Office of Inspector General “Oversight of USAID-Funded Humanitarian Assistance Programming Impacted by Staffing Reductions and Pause on Foreign Assistance,” February 10, 2025, pp. 5, <https://oig.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/2025-02/USAID%20OIG%20-%20Oversight%20of%20USAID-Funded%20Humanitarian%20Assistance%20Programming%20021025.pdf>.

<sup>25</sup> United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), “OCHA on Message: Humanitarian Principles,” Marlies Bull, July 1, 2022, <https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/world/ocha-message-humanitarian-principles-enar>; 22 CFR Chapter I § 120.32.

<sup>26</sup> Ynet News, “Report: US security firm overseeing Gaza aid also conducting intelligence operations,” Uri Blau and Milan Czerny, May 25, 2025, <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/skpsmyxgge>.

SRS contractors comb through security footage from cameras and drones of aid seekers at GHF sites and share that information with the IDF.<sup>27</sup>

Additionally, the State Department and USAID are required to conduct oversight of awardees that distribute humanitarian aid and must ensure that GHF and its contractors are in compliance with US law. As per the Conventional Arms Transfer Policy, and laws set out in the Arms Export Control Act (AECA) and International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR), the provision of defense services, including intelligence services by a US private military contractor (PMC) must undergo State Department review and the PMC must receive an export license to provide defense services to a foreign nation's military, or use arms abroad.<sup>28</sup> A US private military contractor providing defense services to a foreign military or using arms without a license may be operating in violation of US law.

Furthermore, the deployment of US mercenaries appears to be inconsistent with the Trump Administration's national security policy and human rights criteria. On April 9 President Trump issued an executive order that directs agencies to assess whether the transfer of military services "may be used to undermine international peace and security or contribute to abuses of human rights, including... acts of violence against children, [or] violations of international humanitarian law."<sup>29</sup> Experts from Human Rights Watch have also pointed out that GHF and its security contractors are bound by international human rights law, which stipulates that, "the use of lethal force against civilians is strictly limited. For example, if civilians had moved off a route designated by the Israeli armed forces, that would not, in itself, make them targets who could be lawfully attacked... The willful unlawful killing of civilian members of the occupied population is a war crime."<sup>30</sup>

Finally, GHF's apparent coordination with the IDF contradicts humanitarian organizations' longstanding adherence to principles of neutrality, independence, impartiality, and humanity whereby aid organizations "must not take sides in hostilities," and "must be autonomous from the political, economic, military or other objectives that any actor may hold."<sup>31</sup> The provision of humanitarian aid to starving populations should not be a pretext for military intelligence operations. These reports provide ample justification for the State Department to immediately

---

<sup>27</sup> *Id*; The Associated Press, "US contractors say their colleagues are firing live ammo as Palestinians seek food in Gaza," Julia Frankel and Sam Mednick, July 3, 2025, <https://apnews.com/article/palestinians-israel-gaza-contractors-aid-distribution-fe27f3ea83e06a09d66424eed7a5d56f>.

<sup>28</sup> 22 U.S.C. §§ 2751 et seq; 22 CFR Chapter I § 124.1

<sup>29</sup> The White House, "Executive Order: Reforming Foreign Defense Sales to Improve Speed and Accountability," April 9, 2025, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/04/reforming-foreign-defense-sales-to-improve-speed-and-accountability/>; National Archives, "National Security Presidential Memorandum Regarding U.S. Conventional Arms Transfer Policy," April 19, 2018, <https://trumpwhitehouse.archives.gov/presidential-actions/national-security-presidential-memorandum-regarding-u-s-conventional-arms-transfer-policy/>.

<sup>30</sup> Human Rights Watch, "Gaza: Israeli Killings of Palestinians Seeking Food Are War Crimes," August 1, 2025, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2025/08/01/gaza-israeli-killings-of-palestinians-seeking-food-are-war-crimes>; United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, "Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials," Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, September 7, 1990, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/basic-principles-use-force-and-firearms-law-enforcement>.

<sup>31</sup> United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), "OCHA on Message: Humanitarian Principles," Marlies Bull, July 1, 2022, <https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/world/ocha-message-humanitarian-principles-enar>.

terminate its contract with GHF and its security contractors and restore funding to professional humanitarian organizations.

### **Conclusion and Questions**

In the weeks since State's decision to award GHF its funding, at least 1,760 civilians have been killed while seeking food and water, primarily around GHF sites.<sup>32</sup> In the same period, there have been reports of deadly violence by GHF's contractors and the IDF towards Palestinians seeking aid at GHF's food sites.<sup>33</sup> Despite these humanitarian concerns and GHF's clear operational shortcomings, the Administration has announced its intention to scale up GHF's presence in the Gaza Strip and is considering a "take over" of aid distribution in Gaza.<sup>34</sup>

The fastest way to end the suffering in Gaza is to secure a full and permanent ceasefire, restore funding to professional humanitarian organizations, and ensure a two-state solution. GHF's lack of experience, track record of committing violence against civilians seeking aid, and the organization's apparent cooperation with the IDF, raise serious humanitarian and legal questions, and should disqualify the organization from future funding.

To address my concern about these matters, we ask that you provide answers to the following questions no later than September 14, 2025.

1. The Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA) and Digital Accountability and Transparency Act of 2014 (DATA) requires government awards to be made publicly available.<sup>35</sup>
  - a. In what way has the State Department met this requirement with the \$30 million award to GHF?
  - b. Has the \$30 million award to GHF been uploaded to USAspending.gov?
  - c. Please provide a copy of the award documents.

---

<sup>32</sup> Times of Israel, "UN says at least 1,760 killed while seeking aid in Gaza since late May; 12 more on Friday," Agence France-Presse and Joseph Magid, August 15, 2025, [https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog\\_entry/un-says-at-least-1760-killed-while-seeking-aid-in-gaza-since-late-may-12-more-on-friday/](https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/un-says-at-least-1760-killed-while-seeking-aid-in-gaza-since-late-may-12-more-on-friday/); United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, "Today's top news: Occupied Palestinian Territory, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Afghanistan, Ukraine, Central Emergency Response Fund," August 15, 2025, <https://www.unocha.org/news/todays-top-news-occupied-palestinian-territory-democratic-republic-congo-afghanistan-ukraine>.

<sup>33</sup> Haaretz, "It's a Killing Field: IDF Soldiers Ordered to Shoot Deliberately at Unarmed Gazans Waiting for Humanitarian Aid", Nir Hasson, Yaniv Kubovich, and Bar Peleg, June 27, 2025, <https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/2025-06-27/ty-article-magazine/premium/idf-soldiers-ordered-to-shoot-deliberately-at-unarmed-gazans-waiting-for-humanitarian-aid/00000197-ad8e-de01-a39f-ffbe33780000>; BBC, "Gaza aid contractor tells BBC he saw colleagues fire on hungry Palestinians," July 3, 2025, <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cnvmry71q5yo>.

<sup>34</sup> New York Times, "Huckabee Says U.S.-Backed Aid Sites in Gaza Will 'Scale Up,'" Ephrat Livni, August 6, 2025, <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/08/06/world/middleeast/huckabee-gaza-aid-ghf.html>; Fox News, "Trump considers US takeover of aid delivery in Gaza: Report," Bill Hemmer, Ambassador Mike Huckabee, August 5, 2025, <https://www.foxnews.com/video/6376596823112>;

Axios, "Trump plans to 'take over' Gaza aid effort, U.S. officials say," Barak Ravid and Marc Caputo, August 5, 2025, <https://www.axios.com/2025/08/05/trump-gaza-aid-takeover-witkoff-meeting>.

<sup>35</sup> Digital Accountability and Transparency Act of 2014, PL 113-101; Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act PL 109-39.

2. What are the criteria that GHF has to meet in order to renew their award and continue to receive funding from the State Department?
3. On June 20<sup>th</sup>, USAID's Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance conducted a review of the GHF's funding request. What were the findings of USAID's review of GHF's application? Please provide copies of the review.
  - a. Why did the State Department waive its anti-terrorism and anti-fraud requirements in granting GHF an award?
  - b. In waiving these reviews, did the State Department comply with all Congressional notification requirements?
  - c. Did the State Department or USAID conduct partner vetting or third party monitoring of GHF or its subcontractors? If so, please provide a copy of any vetting documents. If not, why?
4. Has any U.S. private military contractor working with GHF applied for or received export licenses, as required by the AECA and ITAR<sup>36</sup>, for military services provided in Israel? If so, please identify them and provide copies of the export licenses. Please provide any copies of Technical Assistance Agreements made with GHF or its contractors.
  - a. Did the State Department approve "defense services" to GHF or its contractors as part of the GHF contract?
  - b. If not, why has the State Department allowed GHF contractors to provide military services to the IDF without a license?
5. Has the State Department conducted an NSPM-10 assessment?
  - a. If so, what did this assessment find?
  - b. Have any licenses for military services been reviewed under NSPM-10, Section 3(d) regarding the risks to international peace, security, and human rights? If so, please provide the results of any such review. If not, why not?
6. Has the State Department completed Leahy vetting of IDF units that work with GHF and its military subcontractors, as required by law? If so, please provide a copy of the Leahy vetting review.<sup>37</sup>
  - a. Has the State Department determined any unit of the IDF or Israel's security forces to be ineligible for security assistance under the 2021 bilateral agreement with Israel? If so, which units were identified?<sup>38</sup>
7. As part of the award that the State Department granted to GHF, were defense articles or the provision of defense services authorized as part of the award? Were defense articles or weapons authorized as an allowable cost?

---

<sup>36</sup> 22 U.S.C. § 2751 et seq; 22 CFR Chapter I § 124.1

<sup>37</sup> 22 U.S.C. § 2378; U.S. Department of State, "About the Leahy Law," January 20, 2025, <https://www.state.gov/bureau-of-democracy-human-rights-and-labor/releases/2025/01/leahy-law-fact-sheet>.

<sup>38</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Agreement Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the State of Israel Concerning Assistance to Security Forces" December 30, 2021, <https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/21-1230.1-Israel-Foreign-Assistance-1.pdf>.

- a. If so, have US taxpayers funds been used to purchase defense articles or weapons for GHF security contractors? Please provide an itemized breakdown of any US taxpayers funds awarded to GHF used to pay for any lethal or nonlethal defense articles or weapons.
  - b. Have defense articles or weapons for GHF's contractors been purchased from Israel Weapon Industries?
8. Section 620I of the Foreign Assistance Act states that, "No assistance shall be furnished under this chapter or the Arms Export Control Act [22 U.S.C. 2751 et seq.] to any country when it is made known to the President that the government of such country prohibits or otherwise restricts, directly or indirectly, the transport or delivery of United States humanitarian assistance."<sup>39</sup>
  - a. When is the most recent assessment that the State Department has conducted regarding Israel's compliance with 620I? Was there a review conducted before awarding GHF taxpayer funds? If so, please provide a copy of any 620I assessments and describe what were the results of the review.
  - b. If not, why not?
9. GHF does not abide by neutrality, and seems to actively coordinate with the Israeli government and the IDF. What role does the US Embassy in Israel play in this relationship?
  - a. What support and services do US personnel in Israel provide to GHF?
  - b. What role has the State Department played in facilitating the relationship between the IDF and GHF?

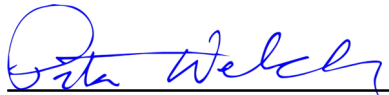
Sincerely,



Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator



Peter Welch  
United States Senator

---

<sup>39</sup> 22 USC § 2378-1