



U.S. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE

441 G St. N.W.
Washington, DC 20548

Released to the Media
September 13, 2016

July 21, 2016

The Honorable James E. Risch
Chairman, Subcommittee on Near East, South Asia,
Central Asia, and Counterterrorism
Committee on Foreign Relations
United States Senate

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your letter requesting that the Government Accountability Office update its 1998 report entitled *Foreign Assistance: U.S. Assistance for Elementary and Preparatory Schools in the West Bank and Gaza Strip*.

GAO accepts your request as work that is within the scope of its authority. Your request has been assigned to Mr. Loren Yager, Managing Director, International Affairs and Trade and staff are available to begin the work shortly. Mr. Yager or a member of his team will contact your office to discuss the request, your needs, and the engagement objectives, scope, and methodology in accordance with GAO's protocols. As applicable, we will also be in contact with the cognizant Inspector General's office to ensure that we are not duplicating efforts. If an issue arises during this coordination, we will consult with you regarding its resolution.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Yager at 202-512-4347 or yagerl@gao.gov, or Ms. Carolyn Kirby, Assistant Director, Congressional Relations, on my staff at 202-512-9843 or kirbyc@gao.gov.

Sincerely yours,

Katherine Siggerud
Managing Director
Congressional Relations

Ref: CCAR 16-1451

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10 June 2016

*Released to the media
Sept. 13, 2016*

Gene L. Dodaro
Comptroller General
Government Accountability Office
441 G Street, NW, #7100
Washington, D.C. 20548

Dear General Dodaro:

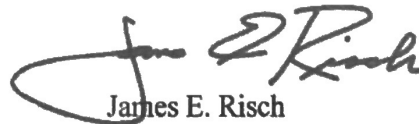
In 1998, GAO conducted a report on all U.S. funds provided for the benefit of elementary and preparatory schools in the West Bank and Gaza Strip for fiscal years 1996, 1997, and 1998. This report was motivated by a concern regarding the content of textbooks and other instructional material which may promote anti-Semitism or terrorist sentiment and action. In 2006, the Palestinian Authority (PA) was supposed to complete a review and reform of the text books used in PA schools.

Annually, the United States continues to provide millions for the West Bank and Gaza both bilaterally, as well as through the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). However, I am not aware of any updated reports on this matter.

For this reason, I am writing to request that you update your last report on this subject and determine if any U.S. assistance, whether through UNRWA, the U.S. Agency for International Development, Overseas Private Investment Corporation, other U.S. government entities, or private voluntary organizations is supporting educational material that promotes anti-Semitism or terrorist sentiment and actions, or fails to acknowledge the State of Israel or discuss Jews in sections dealing with religious tolerance.

I look forward to working with you on this issue, and please do not hesitate to contact me at 202-224-2752 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



James E. Risch
Chairman
Subcommittee on Near East, South Asia, Central
Asia, and Counterterrorism
U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee

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