

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 27, 2008

The Honorable George W. Bush  
President of the United States of America  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20502

Dear President Bush:

As you are aware, the terrorist group Hamas remains the major impediment to lasting peace and reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians.

We strongly believe that the United States, along with all responsible nations, should use every means at our disposal to thwart Hamas' terrorist activities that have included over 4,000 missile strikes, and cripple the propaganda tools used by these extremists to carry out deadly attacks against Israelis and moderate Palestinians.

To that end, we want to bring to your attention al-Aqsa TV, a media outlet owned and operated by Hamas. Al-Aqsa TV is headed by Fathi Ahmad Hammad, who was elected as a Hamas representative to the Palestinian parliament in January 2006. Mr. Hammad is Chairman of al-Ribat Communications and Artistic Productions, a Hamas-run company that produces Hamas' radio station, Voice of al-Aqsa, and its biweekly newspaper, the Message.

Al-Aqsa's programming is deeply disturbing. It promotes terrorism and incites violence against Americans, Israelis and Jews and routinely encourages anti-Semitism, neither of which should be tolerated. Moreover, Hamas uses its programming to recruit terrorists and fundraise for its activities. It reportedly provides operational surveillance on behalf of Hamas. This undermines American efforts to move the Israeli-Palestinian peace process forward and is a catalyst for extremism in a region rife with instability. In short, al-Aqsa plays a central role in promoting the terrorist activities of Hamas.

**Because al-Aqsa is owned and operated by Hamas and plays a vital role in carrying out Hamas' terrorist agenda, it cannot be viewed as separate from Hamas itself. The United States regards Hamas as a terrorist entity, and we strongly urge you likewise to designate al-Aqsa TV, and other media properties owned and operated by Hamas, as Specially Designated Global Terrorist entities (SDGT).**

Since its launch on January 7, 2006, al-Aqsa TV has been used by Hamas to promote its radical ideology through televised speeches of Hamas members and through television programming -- especially aimed at children -- that glorifies suicide bombing, indoctrinates hatred, extremism, and promotes anti-Semitism.

Among the disturbing programming is a children's show "Tomorrow's Pioneers," which is aired to breed new terrorists through hatred for Israel, Western nations, President Abbas, and moderate Palestinians. Al-Aqsa's troubling programming includes a Bugs Bunny look-alike character used to indoctrinate children by inciting them toward hatred and violence by telling children that he "will finish off the Jews and eat them."

In addition, al-Aqsa, which employs Hamas members, also broadcasts programs with puppets used to depict the murder of the President of the United States, a Mickey Mouse look-alike that teaches terrorist doctrines to children, and in November 2006, programming that encouraged Palestinian women to serve as human shields for terrorists holed up in a mosque in Beith Hanoun.

It should come as no surprise to you and your Administration that Hamas' al-Aqsa TV is modeled after al-Manar TV, which has been used by the extremist group Hezbollah as a mass media tool to carry out its policies of hatred,

anti-Semitism and terrorism. To that end, we strongly supported your Administration's designation of al-Manar TV, a television station owned and operated by Hezbollah, as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist entity on March 23, 2006.

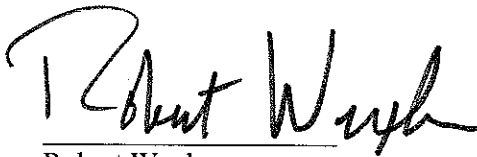
This designation of al-Manar has been critical in limiting the impact of Hezbollah's hate-filled ideology in the Middle East and globally by inducing many satellite providers to take this terrorist outlet off the air. The Administration's designation played an integral role in persuading commercial and government-owned satellite companies to remove al-Manar TV from the airwaves. Finally, the designation led to significantly decreases in annual advertising by major western companies – funding that could have been used by Hezbollah for terrorist activities.

It is clear that the case of al-Aqsa TV is indistinguishable from that of Hezbollah's al-Manar and therefore deserves the same terrorist designation. We know that your Administration recognizes the dangerous role al-Aqsa is playing in inciting violence and teaching future generations of Palestinian children to embrace extremism and hatred over moderation and peace. To that end, we strongly support designating al-Aqsa TV and other media properties owned and operated by Hamas as SDGT's. This designation is critical to American and international efforts to combat terrorism and bring peace to the Middle East.

Finally, Mr. President, there are three satellite companies that broadcast al-Aqsa: Saudi-based Arabsat; Egypt-owned Nilesat; and French-owned Eutelsat. We respectfully request that you make every effort to remove al-Aqsa from these satellite broadcasts.

We look forward to your response to our request regarding al-Aqsa TV and its designation as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist entity. Please know we are prepared to work closely with your Administration to address the growing use of mass media as a weapon by terrorist organizations such as Hamas and Hezbollah.

Sincerely,



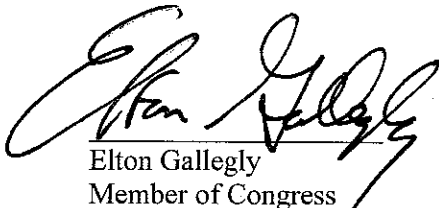
Robert Wexler  
Member of Congress



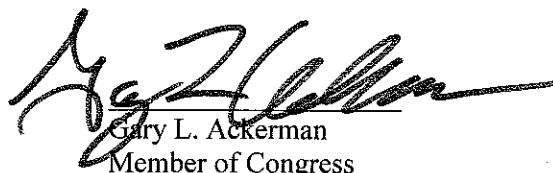
Ileana Ros-Lehtinen  
Member of Congress



Howard Berman  
Member of Congress



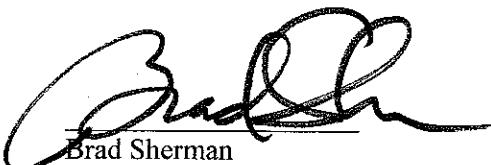
Elton Gallegly  
Member of Congress



Gary L. Ackerman  
Member of Congress



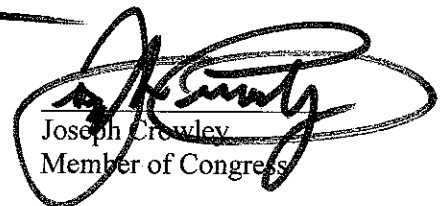
Steve Chabot  
Member of Congress



Brad Sherman  
Member of Congress



Dan Burton  
Member of Congress



Joseph Crowley  
Member of Congress



Ted Poe  
Member of Congress



Shelley Berkley  
Member of Congress

Luis Fortuño  
Member of Congress



Anthony Weiner  
Member of Congress



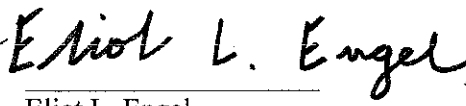
Christopher H. Smith  
Member of Congress



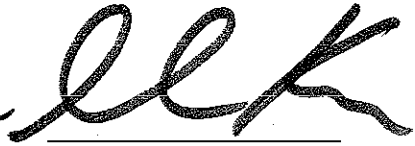
Alcee L. Hastings  
Member of Congress



Gus M. Bilirakis  
Member of Congress



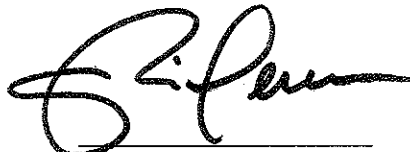
Eliot L. Engel  
Member of Congress



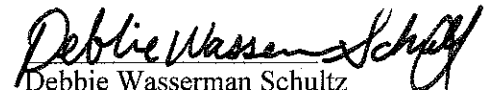
Mark Steven Kirk  
Member of Congress




Steve Israel  
Member of Congress



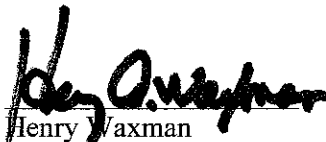
Mike Pence  
Member of Congress



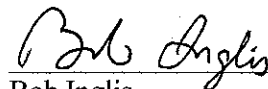
Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Member of Congress



Joe Wilson  
Member of Congress



Henry Waxman  
Member of Congress



Bob Inglis  
Member of Congress



Albio Sires  
Member of Congress



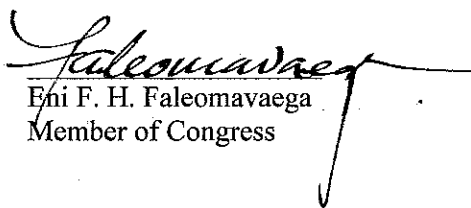
Jon C. Porter  
Member of Congress



Ron Klein  
Member of Congress



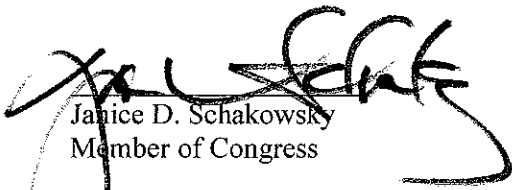
Bill Foster  
Member of Congress



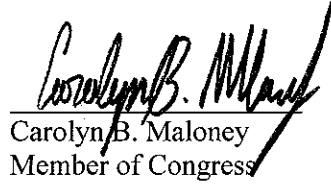
Eni F. H. Faleomavaega  
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress



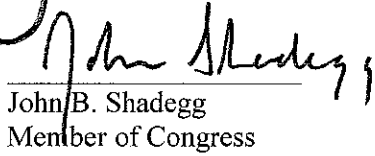
Janice D. Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



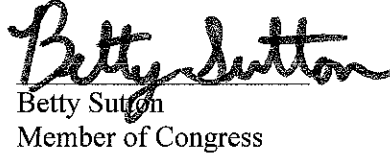
Carolyn B. Maloney  
Member of Congress



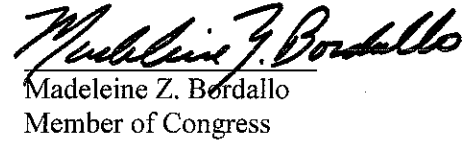
Steven R. Rothman  
Member of Congress



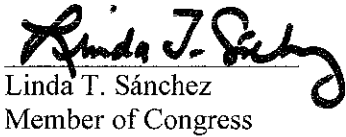
John B. Shadegg  
Member of Congress



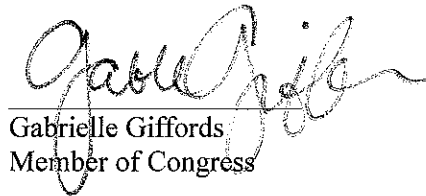
Betty Sutton  
Member of Congress



Madeleine Z. Bordallo  
Member of Congress



Linda T. Sánchez  
Member of Congress



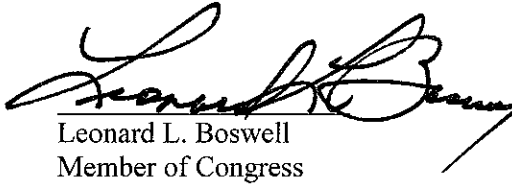
Gabrielle Giffords  
Member of Congress



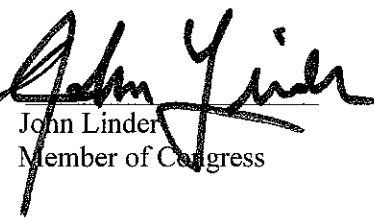
John M. McHugh  
Member of Congress



Peter T. King  
Member of Congress



Leonard L. Boswell  
Member of Congress



John Linder  
Member of Congress

cc: Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice  
Secretary of Homeland Security Michael Chertoff  
Secretary of the Treasury Henry M. Paulson, Jr.