

Congressman Rothman Holds Press Conference Calling on U.N. for Accountability and Transparency in Providing Funding for Humanitarian Relief

(Washington, DC)

— Today, Congressman Steve Rothman (D-NJ) held a press conference to discuss his Resolution (H.Con.Res. 29) on the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA), calling on the United Nations to improve the transparency and accountability of UNRWA and ensure that it is not providing funding, employment or other support to terrorists. Rothman was joined by Resolution co-sponsors Representatives Mark Kirk (R-IL) and Sue Myrick (R-NC) at the event.

“We are here today to demand better transparency and accountability from the United Nations Relief Works Agency (UNRWA),” said Rothman. “I introduced H. Con. Res 29 to ensure that not one cent of U.S. taxpayer dollars provided to UNRWA is redirected to terrorists, or to activities that support terror or promote a culture of hatred.”

The Rothman resolution calls on UNRWA to improve its transparency by publishing online copies of all educational materials used in UNRWA-administered schools. The resolution also calls on UNRWA to improve their accountability by making public a list of their employees, so they can be independently verified as not having terrorist ties.

UNRWA is charged by the United Nations with the mission of providing services, including education, health, relief and social services to over 4.3 million registered Palestinians in the Middle East. However, despite its size and \$400 million dollar budget, UNRWA does not permit outside, independent audits of its books. There is evidence that employees who support Hamas have been on UNRWA’s payroll, UNRWA teachers continue to circulate anti-Israel propaganda in their classroom and Hamas suicide bombers have been educated in UNRWA schools.

Since 1950, the U.S. has contributed more than \$3.4 billion to UNRWA. The U.S. is the single largest monetary contributor to this U.N. organization.

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