

## Rothman, Colleagues Call On Bush To Stop U.S. Companies From Advertising On Terrorist-Owned Television Station in Lebanon

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Urge Administration To Enforce Anti-Terrorism Laws That Prevent U.S. Corporations From Conducting Business With Known-Terrorist Organizations

Washington, DC - Outraged at a Los Angeles Times report detailing how subsidiaries of major U.S. companies are paying for commercials on a Lebanese television operated by Hezbollah, Congressman Steve Rothman (D-NJ9) joined 23 of his House colleagues in urging the Bush Administration to take immediate action to stop these companies from advertising on the network.

“The Al Manar news channel is a 24-hour stream of programming that glorifies terrorist attacks against Israeli civilians and uses its footage of suicide murderers and guerilla rocket assaults to recruit new militants,” Rothman and his colleagues wrote in a letter to President Bush. “U.S. companies should not be in a position to contribute to the promotion of Hezbollah’s message and operations. We call upon the Administration to take immediate action to prohibit financial transactions with Al Manar and ensure that U.S. anti-terrorism laws are strictly enforced.”

As reported in the October 13, 2002, Los Angeles Times opinion piece, “Hezbollah Hate with a U.S. Link,” subsidiaries of U.S. companies, including PepsiCo, Proctor & Gamble, and Western Union, have been paying for airtime to show commercials on Al Manar television programs broadcast in Southern Lebanon. Rothman and his colleagues called on Bush to stop this activity because it is in violation of U.S. counter-terrorism laws. The Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996 (P.L.104-132), Executive Order 13224, and Executive Order 12947, expressly prohibit financial transactions or the provision of material support to any group designated by the State Department as a Foreign Terrorist Organization.

“Paid advertisements help the station finance its growing satellite operations to disseminate Hezbollah propaganda and foment anti-Israel, anti-Western, and anti-Semitic violence among Muslims in Europe, Palestinian areas, and across the Arab world,” Rothman and his colleagues wrote.

Hezbollah, a foreign terrorist organization as identified by the U.S. Department of State, is one of the fiercest terrorist networks in the world. Supported by Iran and based in Lebanon, the group is responsible for the murder of the U.S. Marine barracks in Beirut that killed 241 Americans in 1982, the bombing of the U.S. Embassy in Beirut that killed 12 Americans in 1984, the attack on the Israeli Embassy and Jewish cultural center in Buenos Aires that killed 85 people in

1994, and it is a primary sponsor of the ongoing terrorist campaign against Israel.

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