

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 30, 2026

The Honorable Marco Rubio  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20520

Secretary Rubio:

We write to request urgent information regarding the Administration's "Board of Peace" and the serious constitutional, legal, and humanitarian consequences of its plans to deploy an International Stabilization Force in Gaza. Deploying U.S.-backed forces while Israel continues to violate the ceasefire, expand its military footprint, and block humanitarian aid does not constitute stabilization. It constitutes U.S. military activity on foreign soil, conducted without Congressional authorization, in territory the International Court of Justice has found to be unlawfully occupied — exposing the United States and its partners to serious legal liabilities and complicity in gross violations of human rights.

Congress has yet to receive clear answers from the Administration as to how the “Board of Peace” — created without Congressional authorization or appropriation, containing war criminals and authoritarians, and operating entirely outside of traditional international governing structures — will meaningfully deliver peace for Palestinians and Israelis. President Trump serves as chairman for life in his personal capacity, not as President, with absolute veto power over all decisions. The Administration designated the Board as a public international organization, granting an entity substantially controlled by a single private individual the privileges, exemptions, and immunities ordinarily reserved for multilateral bodies accountable to their member states.<sup>1</sup> That unchecked power has been compounded by a \$1 billion membership fee that has handed pay-to-play authoritarian governments influence over Palestinian lives without Palestinian consent. The Board has yet to demonstrate it is anything but a corrupt institution more interested in securing billions in real estate deals for Trump’s family and allies than adhering to the rule of law and alleviating suffering for millions of civilians.

The Board’s unauthorized composition and establishment have implicated the United States and other countries in potentially grave crimes. The Administration has used the imprimatur of a United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolution to legitimize the “Board of Peace,” which now bears little resemblance to what that resolution sanctioned: a transitional body focused on Gaza's stabilization and reconstruction. As the Board’s Charter ratified at Davos far exceeds that mandate, UN member states have been authorized to contribute troops to an International Stabilization Force (ISF) under false pretenses. The Board’s duplicity is evident in its abandonment of the UNSC-endorsed **but deeply flawed** “20-point plan.” Despite the Board's U.S.-appointed High Representative for Gaza Mladenov’s acknowledgment that Israel has repeatedly violated the ceasefire and that “for Palestinians in Gaza, the war is not fully over,” he disclosed that the Board plans to deploy the ISF in parts of Gaza that Hamas does not control.<sup>2</sup> Where a war is not fully over, “stabilization” activities will in effect

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<sup>1</sup> Executive Office of the President. “Designating the Board of Peace as a Public International Organization Entitled To Enjoy Certain Privileges, Exemptions, and Immunities.” Federal Register. January 22, 2026.  
<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2026/01/22/2026-01271/designating-the-board-of-peace-as-a-public-international-organization-entitled-to-enjoy-certain-privileges-exemptions-and-immunities>.

<sup>2</sup> Barak Ravid. “U.S. wants to start implementing Gaza plan in areas outside Hamas control.” Axios. May 13, 2026.  
<https://www.axios.com/2026/05/13/gaza-peace-plan-hamas-control-board-peace>.

constitute military operations—not peacekeeping. President Trump determined last month that the Board is eligible to receive U.S. defensive weapons<sup>3</sup>, meaning a U.S. military commander would be overseeing foreign forces supplied with U.S. weapons. That is U.S. military activity on foreign soil, regardless of what it is called—all done without Congressional authorization in direct violation of the Constitution.

A U.S. military commander overseeing foreign forces supplied with U.S. weapons becomes even more legally untenable when Israel has shown no indication it will cede security responsibility in Gaza or withdraw from the 58% of Gaza it directly controls.<sup>4</sup> To the contrary, Netanyahu has announced he has directed Israel’s military to take over 70% of Gaza’s territory.<sup>5</sup> Should the Board proceed to deploy the ISF in these areas, the United States and participating countries would effectively become partners with the Israeli military. The International Court of Justice has ruled Israel's occupation of Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, to be unlawful, and has found that Israel's military actions in Gaza could amount to violations of the Genocide Convention.<sup>6</sup> U.S. participation in those operations, including the ongoing transfer of U.S.-source defense articles to Israel, creates serious legal risk under both U.S. and international law. Furthermore, not only would the United States face such legal exposure, but we would be extending this exposure to other countries contributing troops to the ISF or funding to the Board. Unless the United States uses its substantial leverage to compel Israeli withdrawal, the Board will function not as a transitional authority but as a mechanism that enables genocide and masks an unlawful military occupation.

Given the serious policy and ethical concerns raised by these issues, we request detailed responses to the following questions by no later than July 15, 2026:

1. Since the Board of Peace is claiming to be an international public organization entitled to privileges and immunities similar to a UN body, does President Trump intend to seek an act of Congress authorizing U.S. participation?
2. According to the Board’s Charter, President Trump, as an individual, serves as Chairman with absolute power over all decisions. Does that include ultimate authority over funding decisions?
3. Did pledging countries make the commitments of a billion dollars or more for the purpose of securing a seat on the Board, or did the agreements stipulate that the money would go to Gaza’s relief and reconstruction?
4. It has been reported that the UAE has transferred \$100 million to the Board of Peace for training a Palestinian police force.<sup>7</sup> Which other countries have transferred funds to the Board, and for what purpose?
5. Are the funds being held in a private bank account or a World Bank Fund?
6. What is the mechanism for overseeing and auditing funds implemented by the Board, particularly U.S. funding, including to counter the risk of corruption?

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<sup>3</sup> Executive Office of the President. “Eligibility of the Board of Peace To Receive Defense Articles and Defense Services Under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 and the Arms Export Control Act.” Federal Register. April 24, 2026. <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2026/04/24/2026-08126/eligibility-of-the-board-of-peace-to-receive-defense-articles-and-defense-services-under-the-foreign>.

<sup>4</sup> Gisha. “The “Yellow Line”: Approximately 58 percent of the Gaza Strip is still under direct Israeli control.” November 4, 2025. <https://gisha.org/en/the-yellow-line/>.

<sup>5</sup> Dana Karni and Tal Shalev. “Netanyahu says he directed Israeli military to take over 70% of Gaza.” CNN. May 28, 2026. <https://www.cnn.com/2026/05/28/middleeast/israel-netanyahu-military-70-percent-gaza-intl>.

<sup>6</sup> United Nations Office of the Human Rights Commissioner. “Gaza: ICJ ruling offers hope for protection of civilians enduring apocalyptic conditions, say UN experts.” January 31, 2024. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/01/gaza-icj-ruling-offers-hope-protection-civilians-enduring-apocalyptic>.

<sup>7</sup> Bilge Kotan. “UAE sends Trump's Board of Peace '\$100m' for training of new Gaza police force.” Middle East Eye. May 8, 2026. <https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/report-uae-sends-trumps-board-peace-100-million-training-new-gaza-police-force>.

7. Please provide Resolution No. 1 and Resolution No. 2, as well as any other resolutions, agreements, and legal documents with third parties such as donor countries and banking institutions that would bind the United States, the chairman of the Board of Peace, and/or others associated with the Board of Peace, and make all resolutions and bilateral pledging agreements accessible online.
8. What meaningful steps is the Board pursuing to ensure Israeli compliance with the specific obligation in the UNSC-endorsed **but deeply flawed** “20-point plan”: “the importance of the full resumption of humanitarian aid in cooperation with the BoP into the Gaza Strip in a manner consistent with relevant international legal principles and through cooperating organizations, including the United Nations, the International Committee of the Red Cross, and the Red Crescent...”?
9. Why is the United States not using its substantial leverage to compel Israel to open entry points to allow humanitarian aid into Gaza and ease restrictions on INGOs and UNRWA?
10. What mechanisms will be established to ensure that dual-use checks for goods entering Gaza will be conducted by a credible third party?
11. We are told that 28 countries have agreed to oversee post-conflict Gaza. However, they signed up for peacekeeping, not disarmament. Does the United States envision the International Stabilization Force as a multilateral force?
  - a. If it is not a multilateral force, will it be composed in whole or in part of private security contractors?
  - b. If it includes private security contractors, will the Board be providing those contractors with U.S. weapons?
  - c. If U.S. weapons are provided, since Congress did not appropriate any funds for this explicit purpose, how will these weapons be paid for?
12. Will the U.S. demand that Israel withdraw so the International Stabilization Force can operate independently of the Israeli military?
13. The State Department has already transferred funds for disaster relief and peacekeeping activities to the Board, purportedly for stabilization activities. If the plan is not peacekeeping but using U.S. taxpayer dollars and weapons to fight armed groups in Gaza, has the White House notified key Congressional committees?
14. Is the U.S. government aware of or involved in any plans to bisect, divide, or cantonize Gaza in a way that creates barriers to Palestinians in Gaza from moving within the territory?
15. Does the Board intend to seize, direct, occupy, lease, or in any other way control the use of any land in Gaza? If so, for what purposes and under what authority?
16. What is the Board’s plan for transitioning control of Gaza to a legitimate Palestinian government that holds responsibility for both Gaza and the West Bank?
17. Has the Board or any U.S. government official conducted any form of planning for the Board to take any form of role in any context beyond that of Gaza? If so, where?

Congress did not authorize this body, did not appropriate funds for it, and will not stand by while U.S. resources and credibility are committed to it without accountability.

Sincerely,



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Delia C. Ramirez  
Member of Congress



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Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator



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Rashida Tlaib  
Member of Congress



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André Carson  
Member of Congress



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Ayanna Pressley  
Member of Congress



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Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress



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Summer L. Lee  
Member of Congress



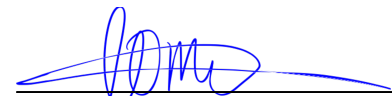
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Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
Member of Congress



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Al Green  
Member of Congress



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Ilhan Omar  
Member of Congress