

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 20, 2015

His Excellency Mahmoud Abbas  
Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee  
President of the Palestinian National Authority  
Al Muqata'a, Ramallah West Bank

Dear Mr. President:

We write regarding the recent series of deplorable terrorist attacks against innocent Israelis, and we urge you to take immediate steps to diffuse the highly volatile situation.

The Government of Israel has repeatedly vowed to maintain the status quo at the Temple Mount. Therefore, any suggestion to the contrary only serves to provoke aggression and spread distorted rhetoric among the Palestinian people.

Years of work to build partnerships on security matters, economic development, and humanitarian needs are at risk. In fact, the spread and frequency of these attacks throughout Israel and the West Bank call into question whether the Palestinians are willing to exist side-by-side, in peace and security, with Israel. The situation clearly demands genuine leadership to return stability and prevent any additional loss of innocent life.

As the Chairwoman and Ranking Member of the State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee, we urge you to meet with Secretary of State Kerry and resume direct negotiations with Prime Minister Netanyahu. Moreover, to that end, we implore you to refrain from highly-inflammatory language and to redouble your efforts to uphold nonviolence. As you are well aware, any U.S. assistance generously provided by the American people to the Palestinian Authority is predicated on the PA's adherence to the precepts of the Oslo Accords as well as countering terrorism and the incitement of violence.

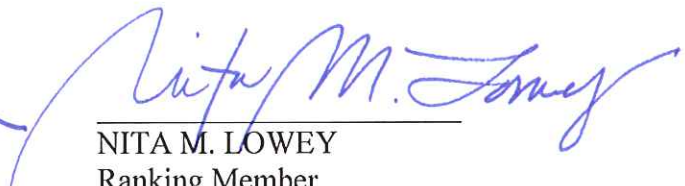
We remain resolute in our commitment to these conditions as well as to achieving a durable two-state agreement through direct negotiations between Israel and the PA. Therefore our ability to support future aid is severely jeopardized if you continue to abandon direct negotiations with Israel and ignore the necessary steps to achieve security, prosperity, and peace for both sides.

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



KAY GRANGER  
Chairwoman  
Subcommittee on State, Foreign  
Operations, & Related Programs



NITA M. LOWEY  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on State, Foreign  
Operations, & Related Programs