



OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL U.S. Agency for International Development

USAID Inspector General Launches Operation Stop the Carousel: Preventing the Circulation of Hamas and Other Terrorists Across Aid Organizations in Gaza

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The Inspector General for the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID OIG) is initiating “Operation Stop the Carousel”—a proactive investigation designed to prevent the circulation of terrorists across international aid organizations receiving U.S. funding in Gaza, including United Nations (UN) and non-government organizations. This Operation will expand OIG’s existing [investigation](#) into Hamas-linked staff affiliated with UNRWA, which has already referred 19 individuals believed to have supported and/or participated in the October 7, 2023, terrorist attacks for suspension/debarment consideration by the Department of State.

USAID OIG—a statutorily independent law enforcement agency—has long identified the [risk of diversion of aid](#) in Gaza by Hamas and other foreign terrorist organizations. USAID OIG has also previously documented the risk that members of U.S. designated terrorist groups in Gaza may circulate across multiple aid organizations, a challenge particularly prevalent within the UN system given the [lack of adequate vetting mechanisms](#). Further, because Hamas is not a UN designated terrorist organization, under UN policies Hamas membership alone would not automatically disqualify an applicant from working on a U.S. taxpayer funded UN program.

Our ongoing independent investigation has already confirmed that a significant amount of UNRWA staff were Hamas members and/or participated in the October 7 terrorist attacks. These individuals must be identified and precluded from working on future U.S.-funded awards so that American taxpayers do not fund the salaries of terrorists. Further, organizations found to have collaborated with terrorist or terrorist-linked organizations, by providing material support through use of facilities, access to information, or other methods, must be referred to the Department of Justice for potential violations of U.S. anti-terrorism laws.

On November 17th, 2025, the United Nations Security Council adopted resolution 2803, endorsing the United States-backed “Comprehensive Plan to End the Gaza Conflict.” The resolution, in part:

“Underscores the importance of the full resumption of humanitarian aid in cooperation with the Board of Peace 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, and ensuring such aid is used solely for peaceful uses and not diverted by armed groups;”

As noted by U.S. Ambassador to the UN Mike Waltz, the resolution is intended to “deny Hamas any opportunity to reconstitute and to ensure that the people of Gaza can be fed.” In conducting this initiative, USAID OIG will gather information from aid workers, UN staff, whistleblowers, and other officials that have reported Hamas interference in aid delivery.



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We will not rely on self-reporting by the UN or other organizations, or their vetting processes, and expect maximum cooperation in response to our requests for information and testimony. Failure to cooperate with our requests will result in referrals to the administration and the United States Congress.

Humanitarian and other assistance to Gaza must reach intended recipients. We look forward to sharing the results of our investigation with all appropriate parties.