

MAR 0 1 2024

SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO PROMPTLY REINSTATE FUNDING FOR THE UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE NEAR EAST TO SUPPORT ITS LIFE-SAVING AND CRITICAL HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS TO PALESTINIAN REFUGEES.

1 WHEREAS, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for
2 Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) has been providing
3 critical humanitarian aid to Palestinian refugees since its
4 establishment in 1949; and

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6 WHEREAS, innocent men, women, and children in Palestine
7 continue to face dire humanitarian conditions, including mass
8 displacement, loss of livelihoods, and limited access to
9 necessities such as food, clean water, and health care services;
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12 WHEREAS, Palestinian refugees are faced with escalating
13 conflicts and crises in the region, resulting in nearly thirty
14 thousand deaths and 1,900,000 people displaced from their homes;
15 and

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17 WHEREAS, most of UNRWA's regular budget for Gaza pays for
18 the salaries of thirteen thousand employees in the region,
19 including teachers, health care specialists, engineers, and
20 sanitation workers; and

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22 WHEREAS, the total amount of funding that is typical for
23 salaries and operational expenses for UNRWA comes out to
24 \$30,000,000 monthly, according to Juliette Touma, UNRWA Director
25 of Communications; and

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27 WHEREAS, however since the start of the 2023 conflict in
28 Gaza, a supplemental budget for UNRWA increased to 47,000,000 a
29 month from 12,000,000 a month, according to Tom White, Director
30 of UNRWA Affairs in Gaza; and



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2 WHEREAS, that extra money has paid for flour for three
3 hundred fifty thousand families, fourteen million food items,
4 mattress pads, blankets, and kitchen sets, and the distribution
5 of twenty million liters of water; and

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7 WHEREAS, some of UNRWA's budget in Gaza also goes to
8 distributing life-saving medications, including insulin and
9 vaccines; and

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11 WHEREAS, the United States usually gives between
12 \$300,000,000 to \$400,000,000 to UNRWA on an annual basis,
13 according to Matthew Miller, Spokesperson for the United States
14 Department of State, which amounts to roughly one-third of the
15 agency's annual budget; and

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17 WHEREAS, the President of the United States has expressed
18 his commitment to promoting human rights and addressing
19 humanitarian crises worldwide; and

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21 WHEREAS, in January 2023, the United States suspended
22 funding to UNRWA amid claims that twelve of its thirteen
23 thousand staff members in Gaza may have abetted extremist
24 activities; and

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26 WHEREAS, in response, the United Nations Secretary-General
27 immediately announced the creation of an independent panel to
28 investigate the allegations made against UNRWA employees; and

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30 WHEREAS, suspension of funding to UNRWA by the United
31 States government has severely impacted UNRWA's ability to
32 deliver life-saving assistance to Palestinian refugees; and

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34 WHEREAS, reinstating funding to UNRWA is essential to
35 ensure the delivery of critical services for Palestinian
36 refugees, such as food, health care, and emergency relief
37 assistance; now, therefore,

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39 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
40 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024,
41 that the President of the United States is urged to promptly
42 reinstate funding for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency



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1 for Palestine Refugees in the Near East to support its life-
2 saving and critical humanitarian assistance programs for
3 Palestinian refugees; and
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
6 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States,
7 United States Secretary of State, Administrator of the United
8 States Agency for International Development, and members of
9 Hawaii's congressional delegation.

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OFFERED BY:  _____

