



# B'NAI B'RITH INTERNATIONAL

---

July 25, 2017

The Honorable Rex W. Tillerson  
Secretary of State  
United States Department of State  
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On behalf of B'nai B'rith International's more than 100,000 members and supporters around the world, we write to express our deep concern over the 2016 State Department Country Reports on Terrorism, which inaccurately characterizes the driving forces of Palestinian terrorism. The document perpetuates an inaccurate narrative that will harm America's ability to combat terrorism in the Middle East.

Absent from this report is a recognition of the forces within the Palestinian leadership that incite and reward acts of terror. We strongly believe that this report disregards the complex history of the conflict, in favor of a one-sided narrative. We urge you to amend the document to hold the Palestinian leadership accountable for inciting violence against Israeli civilians. An accurate reckoning of the causes of terrorism is crucial to preventing future terror attacks from occurring.

The 2016 State Department Country Reports on Terrorism wrongfully characterizes Palestinian terrorism as a response to a "lack of hope" for the future of the Palestinian cause. However, the report does not identify Palestinian actions that have led to the current political climate and lack of dialogue. The Palestinians' record of terror, incited by its top leadership, is a major hindrance to achieving an Israeli-Palestinian peace.

Additionally, the report seems to fully embrace the Palestinians' own diagnosis of the root causes of Palestinian terror. We believe this sends a dangerous message to the international community, one that suggests the United States supports the viewpoint that Israelis are responsible for the violence that is committed against them. Furthermore, it removes the Palestinians' incentive to return to the negotiating table. As long as the United States government fosters the notion that the Palestinians need not take responsibility for terror and incitement, the Palestinian leadership is unlikely to become an active partner in the peace process.

We urge you to correct the distortions contained in this report and issue revised language acknowledging that the true drivers of violence committed by Palestinians are the Palestinian leadership of Hamas and Fatah themselves.

Thank you for your attention and cooperation.

Respectfully,

Gary P. Saltzman  
President

Daniel S. Mariaschin  
Chief Executive Officer

**THE GLOBAL VOICE OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY**  
[www.bnaibrith.org](http://www.bnaibrith.org)