

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3723

To prohibit funding for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 1, 2024

Mr. COTTON (for himself and Mr. CRUZ) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

A BILL

To prohibit funding for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Defund United Na-
5 tions Relief and Works Agency Act of 2024”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS; STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

8 (1) substantial evidence exists that the United
9 Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Ref-
10 ugees in the Near East (referred to in this Act as

1 “UNRWA”) aided Hamas terrorists in their attacks
2 against Israel;

3 (2) funds intended for the humanitarian relief
4 of Palestinian civilians are being used to fund
5 Hamas; and

6 (3) UNRWA has proven through its actions to
7 be at odds with the interests of the United States
8 and its partners in the Middle East.

9 (b) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It is the policy of the
10 United States not to cooperate with or otherwise facilitate
11 the interests of any entity affiliated with or assisting
12 Hamas.

13 **SEC. 3. PROHIBITION ON FUNDING.**

14 Beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act,
15 no funds previously appropriated or otherwise made avail-
16 able for fiscal year 2024 or any prior fiscal year for
17 UNRWA may be made available.

18 **SEC. 4. IMMIGRATION BAN.**

19 (a) PROHIBITION ON ADMISSION.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in sub-
21 section (b), any individual who is, or has ever been,
22 affiliated with UNRWA may not be admitted to the
23 United States.

24 (2) REVOCATION OF NONIMMIGRANT VISAS.—

25 The Secretary of Homeland Security shall revoke

1 any nonimmigrant visa issued to any individual de-
2 scribed in paragraph (1).

3 (b) EXCEPTIONS.—The prohibition under subsection
4 (a) shall not apply to—

5 (1) United States citizens or nationals or aliens
6 lawfully admitted for permanent residence before the
7 date of the enactment of this Act; or

8 (2) the admittance of any individual that is re-
9 quired under the Agreement regarding the Head-
10 quarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake Suc-
11 cess June 26, 1947, and entered into force Novem-
12 ber 21, 1947.

13 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section
14 212(a)(3)(B)(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act
15 (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(3)(B)(i)) is amended—

16 (1) in subclause (I), by inserting “, which shall
17 include any alien who is an officer, official, rep-
18 resentative, or spokesperson of the Palestine Libera-
19 tion Organization or of the United Nations Relief
20 and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the
21 Near East (UNRWA)” before the semicolon at the
22 end; and

23 (2) by striking the undesignated matter fol-
24 lowing subclause (IX).

1 **SEC. 5. REVOCATION OF TAX-EXEMPT STATUS.**

2 For any taxable year ending after the date of the en-
3 actment of this Act, UNRWA USA—

4 (1) shall not be treated as described in sub-
5 section (c) of section 501 of the Internal Revenue
6 Code of 1986; and

7 (2) shall not be exempt from taxation under
8 subsection (a) of such section.

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