

TIM BURCHETT

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
1122 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-4202
(202) 225-5435

DISTRICT OFFICES:
800 Market Street, Suite 110
Knoxville, TN 37902
Phone: (865) 523-3772
Fax: (865) 544-0728

331 Court Street
Maryville, TN 37804
Phone: (865) 984-5464
Fax: (865) 984-0521

<https://burchett.house.gov>

The Honorable Janet Yellen

Secretary

U.S. Department of the Treasury

1500 Pennsylvania Avenue NW

Washington, DC 20220

The Honorable Merrick Garland

Attorney General

U.S. Department of Justice

950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW

Washington, DC 20004

March 11, 2021

Dear Secretary Yellen and Attorney General Garland,

Congratulations on your respective successful Senate confirmations and thank you for your service to our nation.

Israel has a right to exist and to protect itself from enemies in the Middle East, whether they are state or non-state actors. This is something I feel strongly about. However, kinetic warfare is not the only threat Israelis face on a regular basis. The Boycott, Divest, and Sanction (BDS) movement wages a constant economic war on our ally and seeks to delegitimize the state of Israel. Not only does the BDS movement hurt everyday Israelis, it also hurts the thousands of innocent Palestinians who work for Israeli companies as they try to make a better life for themselves and their families. Furthermore, there is bipartisan opposition among American public officials—including the majority of Congress—to the BDS movement. Additionally, when I asked Secretary of State Blinken about this issue recently, he confirmed that the Biden Administration opposes the BDS movement and indicated that stance will not change.

It is clear that the BDS movement runs counter to our nation's interests, which is why I am gravely concerned with recent reporting alleging that the non-profit grassroots fundraising platform, ActBlue, solicits donations for the Palestinian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel (PACBI), an anti-Israel and pro-BDS group. This is a flagrant violation of ActBlue's terms of service, but I am more troubled by the fact that PACBI works closely with the Palestinian BDS National Committee (BNC). The BNC is basically an umbrella organization for foreign terrorist groups such as Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad. I am worried that funds donated to PACBI via ActBlue are, through BNC, directed to foreign terror organizations. This would be breach of 18 U.S.Code § 2339B, which prohibits any party from providing material support or resources to designated foreign terrorist organizations.

Anti-Semitism and terrorism have no place in the United States, so I am hopeful your departments will investigate how funds are directed by these groups. If donations are indeed winding up in the hands of terrorist organizations, you should do everything in your power to put an end to this and bring those responsible to justice.

Sincerely,



Tim Burchett

Member of Congress

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