

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

August 25, 2026

The Honorable Marco Rubio
Secretary
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Rubio:

Earlier this year, Donald Trump pledged \$10 billion in taxpayer funds to the “Board of Peace,” an ill-defined pseudo-governmental entity never authorized by Congress, where President Trump serves as self-designated “Chairman for Life.”¹ More recently, the State Department attempted to contribute \$50 million in taxpayer money to this Board but was forced to pause and rescind the transfer when Congress raised legitimate questions about its existence that the Department simply could not answer. Thus far, Morocco and the United Arab Emirates have transferred over \$100 million to the Board with billions more pledged by countries including Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Qatar and Saudi Arabia. Yet we still have no answers to even the most basic questions about the structure, operations, and oversight of the Board.

In January, Jared Kushner, the President’s son-in-law and a member of the Board of Peace’s Executive Board, touted a “Master Plan” for Gaza redevelopment that included the construction of 180 skyscrapers, deluxe hotels, and luxury villas, as well as homes, schools, and hospitals.² These grand designs appear now to have been radically downsized to a small pilot project: a single temporary refugee camp for displaced Gazans.³ Recently, President Trump unveiled a Gaza peace “roadmap” from the Board of Peace via a social media post.⁴ But the plan appeared dead in the water after Israel indicated that it did not approve of the plan’s terms and has continued to engage in military strikes in Gaza.⁵

¹ Founding Charter of the Board of Peace art. 3.2-3.3, Jan. 16, 2026, <https://boardofpeace.org/charter>.

² Andrew Carey, *Jared Kushner Lays Out Trump-Backed Postwar Plan for Gaza at Board of Peace Event*, CNN (Jan. 22, 2026), <https://www.cnn.com/2026/01/22/middleeast/kushner-trump-postwar-plan-gaza-board-peace-davos-intl-latam>.

³ Karen DeYoung, *Trump's Board of Peace Lowers Ambitions as Peace Plan Lags*, WASH. POST (July 27, 2026), <https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2026/07/27/trumps-board-peace-lowers-ambitions-peace-plan-lags/>.

⁴ Mira Bhakta, *Trump Board of Peace Outlines Gaza Peace Plan Implementation Steps*, THE HILL (July 31, 2026), <https://thehill.com/policy/international/6002266-hamas-disarmament-roadmap-unveiled/>.

⁵ Jacob Magid, Lazar Berman, et al., *Board of Peace Envoy Laments Recent Gaza Strikes Amid Effort to Implement Trump Plan*, TIMES OF ISRAEL (Aug. 3, 2026), <https://www.timesofisrael.com/board-of-peace-envoy-laments-recent-gaza-strikes-amid-effort-to-implement-trump-plan/>.

Meantime, the Board of Peace has yet to provide any public accounting of the funds it is receiving or spending. Although the World Bank established an account to facilitate contributions to the Board, the Bank has emphasized that it is acting merely as a pass through entity that “will receive funds from Contributors and transfer them to the Board of Peace” and is taking “no responsibility or accountability, fiduciary or otherwise, for the use of the funds after they have been transferred to a recipient.”⁶ Contributors even have the option of sidestepping the World Bank altogether and depositing funds directly into the Board’s private accounts at J.P. Morgan.⁷

We thus have a profusion of questions about this mysterious operation: What is the Board of Peace? Is it a public or private entity? International or domestic? Is it registered as a corporation in the United States or abroad? What kind of corporation is it—for-profit or not-for-profit? Who controls the funds in its J.P. Morgan bank account? In what countries are those accounts located? Who will audit those funds and conduct oversight of the Board? What does President Trump intend to do with this vast slush fund while he is in office—or after he leaves? Can anyone assure Congress that billions of dollars from U.S. taxpayers and foreign governments will not be flowing into the pockets of President Trump, members of his family, corrupt and incompetent contractors or business partners, or political allies and foot soldiers of the President?

It appears that Donald Trump, now serving as “Chairman for Life” in his personal capacity, exercises nearly unilateral control over the Board of Peace and its expenditure of taxpayer funds. Under the Board’s charter, he selects the Executive Board and retains veto authority over its decisions;⁸ he is the final authority in interpreting the charter and managing any disputes;⁹ and he alone is “authorized to adopt resolutions or other directives ... to implement the Board of Peace’s mission,” such as it is.¹⁰ In short, Donald Trump appears to have sweeping control over the billion-dollar slush fund that you helped him establish, and he will potentially retain these powers for many years well after he leaves public office.

Many individuals in the President’s orbit have been explicit about their intention to use the Board of Peace to advance private profit-making purposes. At the Board’s inaugural meeting, Mr. Kushner boasted that Gaza would provide “amazing investment opportunities.”¹¹ Marc Rowan, a billionaire private equity manager and another member of the Executive Board, estimated that Gaza holds \$115 billion in potential real estate value that “just needs to be

⁶ World Bank, *Establishment of a Financial Intermediary Fund for Gaza Reconstruction and Development* (Nov. 20, 2025), <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/099112125105517915/pdf/BOSIB-d55fb765-9bc7-4312-941a3e1eb65b556e.pdf>.

⁷ Karen DeYoung, *Trump's Board of Peace Lowers Ambitions as Peace Plan Lags*, WASH. POST (July 27, 2026), <https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2026/07/27/trumps-board-peace-lowers-ambitions-peace-plan-lags/>.

⁸ Founding Charter of the Board of Peace art. 4.1, Jan. 16, 2026, <https://boardofpeace.org/charter>.

⁹ Founding Charter of the Board of Peace art. 2.1-3.3, Jan. 16, 2026, <https://boardofpeace.org/charter>.

¹⁰ Founding Charter of the Board of Peace art. 9, Jan. 16, 2026, <https://boardofpeace.org/charter>.

¹¹ Nick Cleveland-Stout, *Board of Peace a Huge Pay Day for Wealthy Board Members*, TRUTH DIG (Feb. 24, 2026), <https://www.truthdig.com/articles/board-of-peace-a-huge-pay-day-for-wealthy-board-members/>.

unlocked and financed.”¹² Yakir Gabay, a billionaire real estate developer and Israel’s representative to the Board of Peace, argued that Gaza should be transformed into a “Mediterranean Riviera with 200 hotels and potential islands.”¹³ The contractor behind the failed “Alligator Alcatraz” detention center in the Florida Everglades submitted a bid for an exclusive contract that would guarantee 300% profits and a 7-year monopoly over trucking and logistics in Gaza.¹⁴ To date, the Board of Peace seems more positioned to advance these wildly corrupt self-interested schemes to enrich the President’s friends than any internationally or domestically legitimate rebuilding effort for people suffering in Gaza or living in the Middle East.

President Trump has also preemptively attempted to shield the Board from any criminal accountability. Shortly after he launched the Board of Peace, he designated it as a “public international organization” under the International Organizations Immunities Act (IOIA).¹⁵ This designation is, of course, without any legal effect. The IOIA applies only to “public international organization[s] in which the United States participates pursuant to any treaty or under the authority of any Act of Congress.”¹⁶ Had Congress passed a law or ratified a treaty authorizing our nation’s participation in the Board of Peace, the Board might enjoy immunity from lawsuits¹⁷ and certain searches by federal law enforcement.¹⁸ But, of course, Congress has never taken such action. The Board of Peace was created out of thin air and whole cloth by the President, without any input from Congress about any aspect of its operation. Congress has nothing to do with this entity, either by way of legislation or treaty, and the President’s order is completely without merit.

The Trump Administration’s involvement with the Board has already been marked by backroom deals and procedural illegitimacy.¹⁹ Earlier this year, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office Director John Squires took the extraordinary, and almost certainly illegal, step of applying

¹² *Id.*

¹³ *Id.*

¹⁴ Aram Roston & Cate Brown, ‘They’re Trying to Get Rich off It’: US Contractors Vie to Rebuild Gaza, with ‘Alligator Alcatraz’ Team in the Lead, THE GUARDIAN (Dec. 14, 2025), <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/dec/14/gaza-rebuild-us-contractors>.

¹⁵ Exec. Order No. 14375, 91 Fed. Reg. 2837-38 (Jan. 16, 2026), <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2026/01/22/2026-01271/designating-the-board-of-peace-as-a-public-international-organization-entitled-to-enjoy-certain>; Michael Mattler, *Expert Q&A on the Charter of the Board of Peace and the Role of Congress*, JUST SECURITY (Jan. 23, 2026), <https://www.justsecurity.org/129489/qa-charter-board-of-peace/> (citing 22 U.S.C. § 2672(a)).

¹⁶ 22 U.S.C. § 288.

¹⁷ 22 U.S.C. § 288(b) (“International organizations, their property and their assets, wherever located, and by whomsoever held, shall enjoy the same immunity from suit and every form of judicial process as is enjoyed by foreign governments, except to the extent that such organizations may expressly waive their immunity for the purpose of any proceedings or by the terms of any contract”).

¹⁸ 22 U.S.C. § 288(c) (“Property and assets of international organizations, wherever located and by whomsoever held, shall be immune from search, unless such immunity be expressly waived, and from confiscation. The archives of international organizations shall be inviolable”).

¹⁹ See Letter from The Hon. Rep. Jamie Raskin, Ranking Member, H. Comm. on the Judiciary, to The Hon. John A. Squires, Director, U.S. Pat. & Trademark Off. (May 5, 2026), <https://democrats-judiciary.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/democrats-judiciary.house.gov/files/evo-media-document/2026-05-05-raskin-to-squires-uspto-re-board-of-peace.pdf>.

for trademarks on behalf of the Board, even though the law specifically prohibits submitting applications for a trademark on behalf of another person.²⁰ When questioned in a March 2026 House Judiciary Committee hearing, Mr. Squires was unable to answer even basic questions about the Board's structure, including whether it is public or private, whether it is a U.S. entity or foreign entity, or even a false entity altogether, much less could he offer an explanation for his unprecedented decision to apply for a trademark for this organization on behalf of the President and his associates.²¹ After Judiciary Committee Democrats demanded information on this trademark application in three oversight letters to Director Squires, he abruptly abandoned the applications but failed to respond to any of our letters or provide information as to who directed him to apply for this trademark for the Board in the first place.

Last year, when you helped President Trump dismantle the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), you restated your belief that there must be transparency in how taxpayer dollars are spent, especially abroad:

These are taxpayer dollars. And so I'm very troubled by these reports that [people at USAID] have been unwilling to cooperate with people who are asking simple questions about what does this program do, who gets the money, who are our contractors, who's funded. And that sort of level of insubordination makes it impossible to conduct the sort of mature and serious review that I think foreign aid writ large should have ... These are taxpayer dollars, and we owe the American people the assurances that every dollar that we are spending abroad is being spent on something that furthers our national interests.²²

The fact that the Trump Administration, with your help, is attempting to transfer taxpayer dollars to the Board of Peace, an opaque organization primed for corruption, raises serious concerns that public funds could be once again misused by the President and his family and friends. As we know that you agree from your statements about USAID, which is an organization actually established in statute and overseen by Congress and audited by the federal government, these are taxpayer dollars being used, and therefore you owe the American people assurances that every dollar you transfer to the Board will be spent on something that actually "furthers our national interests."

Accordingly, we demand that you provide answers to the following questions before 5:00 p.m. on September 8, 2026:

1. Who manages the Board of Peace? Please provide any organizational charts in your possession.

²⁰ *Id.*

²¹ *Id.*

²² Danielle Wallace, *Secretary of State Rubio Confirms Becoming Acting USAID Chief*, FOX NEWS (Feb 3, 2025), <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/secretary-state-rubio-confirms-becoming-acting-usaid-chief>.

2. How are decisions made within the Board of Peace, such as setting a budget and determining where to deploy organizational resources? Please describe the organization's decision-making structure.
3. Who has authority to approve contracts, expenditures, or major financial decisions on behalf of the Board of Peace?
4. How many individuals does the Board of Peace currently employ as full-time staff, part-time staff, and contractors?
5. Who is responsible for maintaining records—such as financial records, contract terms, and meeting minutes—for the Board of Peace?
6. What assets are held by the Board of Peace? In what accounts are the Board's assets held? Are these accounts managed by the World Bank, J.P. Morgan, or another entity? Who controls and has access to these accounts? Who provides oversight and auditing of the funds, and who has access to that information? Will contributed funds from other nations go into the designated World Bank account, into a J.P. Morgan account, or into a separate account?
7. To what account(s) have you transferred, or do you plan to transfer, taxpayer funds to the Board of Peace, and where are these accounts located? Please provide all documentation related to such transfers, who directed the transfer, and the identification of the program or account from which State Department funds were redirected.
8. With whom at the Board of Peace did State Department officials coordinate regarding the attempted transfer of the \$50 million in question? Please provide a list of all Board of Peace representatives with whom you or your employees communicated, as well as all correspondence between State Department officials and Board of Peace representatives regarding the transfer of these funds.
9. What oversight mechanisms exist to track and publish State Department funding transferred to the Board of Peace?
 - a. Will funds be transferred pursuant to detailed, specified projects, or is the money transferred for the organization's general use without any specific budgetary justification or oversight mechanism?
 - b. Will the State Department require any proof from the Board of Peace that the taxpayer money transferred to the organization was used for its specific intended purpose?
10. Under what legal authority did President Trump designate the Board of Peace as a "public international organization" entitled to the immunity benefits under the

International Organizations Immunities Act (22 U.S.C. § 288)²³ without a treaty or Act of Congress?

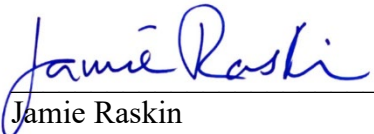
11. Under what legal authority did President Trump purport to sign the United States onto the Board of Peace's Charter?

In addition to all documentation responsive to the questions above, please provide all other records and documents in your possession related to the Board of Peace and its operations, as well as the attempted transfer of the \$50 million. This includes, but is not limited to, the organization's bylaws and internal procedures; names, titles, job descriptions, and qualifications of all Executive Board members; overall operating budget; procedures on how bids for organization contracts will be solicited and awarded, including all policies to prevent fraud and corruption in this process; and all conflict-of-interest policies and disclosure requirements.

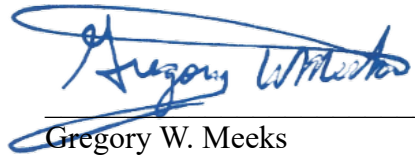
We will work with you to guarantee the American people full transparency about how their tax dollars are being funneled to—and spent by—this organization never established or authorized by Congress but now poised to receive substantial public funding from the State Department under your direction.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter. Please reach out to Judiciary Committee Democratic staff at 202-225-3951 with any questions regarding your complete response to this inquiry.

Very truly yours,



Jamie Raskin
Ranking Member
House Committee on the Judiciary



Gregory W. Meeks
Ranking Member
House Committee on Foreign Affairs

cc: The Honorable Jim Jordan, Chairman
House Committee on the Judiciary

The Honorable Brian Mast, Chairman
House Committee on Foreign Affairs

²³ Under the International Organizations Immunities Act, 22 U.S.C. § 288, “the term ‘international organization’ means a public international organization in which the United States participates pursuant to any treaty or under the authority of any Act of Congress authorizing such participation or making an appropriation for such participation, and which shall have been designated by the President through appropriate Executive order as being entitled to enjoy the privileges, exemptions, and immunities provided in this subchapter.” No such treaty or Act of Congress exists authorizing participation in or appropriating funds to the Board of Peace.