

Congress of the United States

Washington, D.C. 20515

July 24, 2015

The Honorable John F. Kerry
Secretary of State
US Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

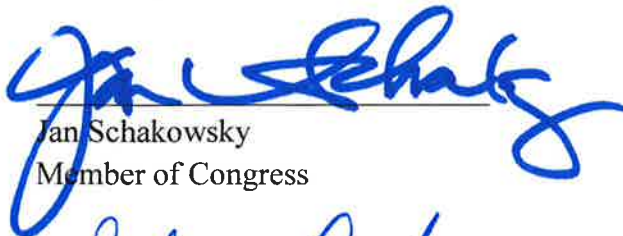
Dear Secretary Kerry:

We write to share our strong interest in ensuring that the State Department continues its efforts to promote the protection and proper treatment of children on both sides of the Israel-Palestinian conflict. All too often, Israeli and Palestinian children alike live in a state of constant fear. We remain deeply committed to pursuing a two-state solution to this conflict, where a Jewish, democratic Israel coexists alongside a peaceful and prosperous Palestine. In order to reach that goal, however, we must ensure that we are promoting interactions between Israelis and Palestinians that demonstrate mutual respect and compliance with international norms.

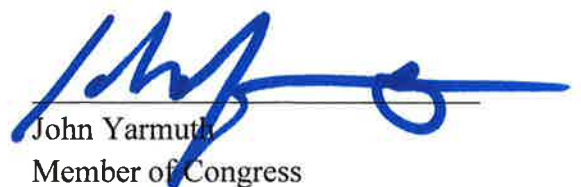
We are concerned about troubling reports of widespread mistreatment of Palestinian children in Israeli custody, as detailed by a February 2013 UNICEF report titled "Children in Israeli Military Detention: Observations and Recommendations." This report describes numerous instances of young people suffering mistreatment, and we believe these practices are unacceptable. We are aware that a February 2015 update of this report makes clear that the Israeli government is working collaboratively with UNICEF to address the concerns outlined in their initial report and that steps are being taken towards the adoption of more than three dozen recommendations. However, further steps are necessary for Israel to fully address the issue and ensure that Palestinian children are not suffering from mistreatment while in custody.

Israel is and will remain one of the United States' closest friends and allies. As we continue to engage with this nation on a host of issues, we encourage the State Department to stress the importance of ensuring proper treatment of Palestinian children in Israeli detention, and we urge the State Department to address this matter in the Department's next report on global human rights.

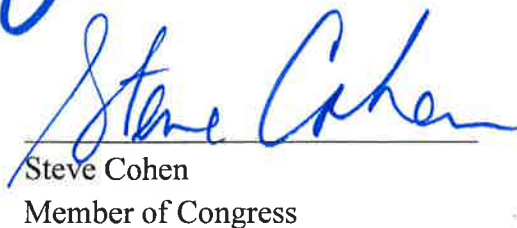
Sincerely,



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



John Yarmuth
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



David E. Price
Member of Congress