



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

FEB 23 2015

RELEASE IN FULL

Dear Senator Cruz:

Thank you for your letter of January 29 regarding U.S. taxpayer funding to the group OneVoice.

Let us first assure you that there is absolutely no basis to claims that the Department of State has funded efforts to influence the current Israeli election campaign.

In September 2013, the Department provided a 14-month grant to the OneVoice Israel branch, an NGO registered in Israel, for \$233,500 to conduct grassroots initiatives in support of peace negotiations that Prime Minister Netanyahu's government had entered into, and to support the United States' and Israel's shared interest in achieving a negotiated two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. In accordance with standard practice, the Department reviewed OneVoice Israel's implementation plan and approved all proposed U.S. Government-funded activities.

As you know, the Israeli Knesset voted to dissolve itself on December 8, 2014 and set March 17, 2015 as the date for the next election. The announcement of new Israeli elections came after the Department grant with OneVoice Israel ended in November 2014, and more than three months after the final U.S. grant payment to OneVoice Israel. The Department has not provided any funds to OneVoice Israel since August 18, 2014, when we made the final payment to the organization under the terms of the September 2013 grant.

The Department has not provided any funds, support, or direction whatsoever to the Israeli organization V15; the U.S. Government has no relationship with this organization.

The Honorable
Ted Cruz,
United States Senate.

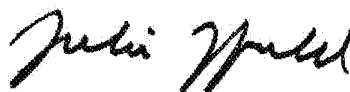
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In September 2013, the Department also entered into a parallel 14-month cooperative agreement in the amount of \$115,776 with the Palestinian branch of OneVoice to conduct similar grassroots outreach with Palestinian constituencies in support of Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations. There is a remaining payment of approximately \$10,000 to OneVoice's Palestinian branch, which will not be delivered until a review of the final program report is complete and will only cover approved activities performed during the agreement period, September 2013 to November 2014.

We recommend that you direct any questions you may have regarding OneVoice's 501(c)(3) status to the Internal Revenue Service.

We hope this letter has addressed your concerns on this matter; please do not hesitate to contact us if you have further questions.

Sincerely,



Julia Frifield
Assistant Secretary
Legislative Affairs



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Washington, D.C. 20520

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The Honorable
Lee Zeldin,
House of Representatives.

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