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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

BARBARA CUBIN

WYOMING—AT LARGE

April 15, 2008

President Carter
The Carter Center
One Copenhill
453 Freedom Parkway
Atlanta, GA 30307

Dear President Carter:

I am writing to join the growing chorus of voices who have decried your planned visit with Khaled Meshaal, the leader of Hamas. It is not too late to cancel this meeting and publicly repudiate acts of terrorism.

As you well know, Hamas has a long history of terrorist activity. Since the inception of their campaign of violence in 1989, Hamas has been responsible for countless attacks and the deaths of hundreds of innocent Israeli civilians. Importantly, the organization is directly responsible for the deaths of at least 26 American citizens.

Hamas has long been listed by the State Department as a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO). In accordance with United States policy, FTOs are legally and diplomatically isolated from the United States and the community of nations. In fact, according to the State Department, one purpose of the FTO designation is to "stigmatize and isolate designated terrorist organizations internationally."

You have stated that you are not making the trip as a representative of the United States. However, as a former President, you are by definition a representative of this country. Any visit with the leader of a terrorist organization from a former President is a direct contradiction of United States foreign policy. Worse, it is an insult to Hamas' 26 American victims and their families. Whether or not you are considered a representative of the United States, the most important question remains: what do you hope to accomplish by meeting with the head of a terrorist group?

Mr. President, I implore you to cancel your meeting with Khaled Meshaal.

Sincerely,

Barbara Cubin
Member of Congress

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