

SENT VIA: FOIA.GOV

October 18, 2023

Dear FOIA Officer:

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552, and the implementing FOIA regulations of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) FOIA Program, 6 C.F.R. § 5, I respectfully request the following records from the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services:

- 1) All communications, including emails, text messages, and messaging app chats (see comm* definition below) sent/received by Nejwa Ali in which one of the following search terms are present: i) "Palestine", ii) "Israel", iii) "Jew", iv) "Semitic", v) "Genocide", vi) "Netanyahu", vii) "Gaza", viii) "Kibbutz", ix) "Hospital", x) "Hamas", xi) "Decolonization", xii) "BLM", xiii) "From the river to the sea", xiv) "Zion", xv) "BDS", or xvi) "Apartheid".
- 2) Internet search history from all browsers on desktop and any mobile browser devices owned by Nejwa Ali
- 3) All asylum case files reviewed by Nejwa Ali
- 4) The resume, SF-50, and SF-86 of Nejwa Ali

Please include responses to any communications that meet the above criteria.

Please limit your search to records gathered between 7/1/2016 and the date you process this request.

*The term "communication" means each manner or means of disclosure or exchange of information (in the form of facts, ideas, inquiries, or otherwise), regardless of means utilized, whether oral, electronic, by document or otherwise, and whether in an in-person meeting, by telephone, facsimile, e-mail (desktop or mobile device), text message, MMS or SMS message, messaging systems (such as iMessage, Microsoft Teams, WhatsApp, Telegram, Signal, Google Chat, Twitter direct messages, Lync, Slack, and Facebook Messenger), regular mail, telexes, releases, or otherwise.

To further narrow down the scope of the request, requester does not seek correspondence that merely forwards press clippings, such as news accounts or opinion pieces, newsletters, and published or docketed materials, if that



correspondence has no comment added by any party in the thread.

The term "record" means any written, recorded, or graphic matter of any nature whatsoever, regardless of how recorded, and whether original or copy, including, but not limited to, the following: memoranda, reports, expense reports, books, manuals, instructions, financial reports, working papers, records, notes, letters, notices, confirmations, telegrams, receipts, appraisals, pamphlets, magazines, newspapers, prospectuses, inter-office and intra-office communications, electronic mail (emails), MMS or SMS text messages, instant messages, messaging systems (such as iMessage, Microsoft Teams, WhatsApp, Telegram, Signal, Google Chat, Twitter direct messages, Lync, Slack, and Facebook Messenger), contracts, cables, telexes, notations of any type of conversation, telephone call, voicemail, meeting or other communication, bulletins, printed matter, computer printouts, teletypes, invoices, transcripts, diaries, analyses, returns, summaries, minutes, bills, accounts, estimates, projections, comparisons, messages, correspondence, press releases, circulars, financial statements, reviews, opinions, offers, studies and investigations, questionnaires and surveys, and work sheets (and all drafts, preliminary versions, alterations, modifications, revisions, changes, and amendments of any of the foregoing, as well as any attachments or appendices thereto), and graphic or oral records or representations of any kind (including without limitation, photographs, charts, graphs, microfiche, microfilm, videotape, recordings and motion pictures), and electronic, mechanical, and electronic records or representations of any kind (including, without limitation, tapes, cassettes, disks, and recordings) and other written, printed, typed, or other graphic or recorded matter of any kind or nature, however produced or reproduced, and whether preserved in writing, film, tape, disk, videotape or otherwise. A record bearing any notation not a part of the original text is to be considered a separate record. A draft or non-identical copy is a separate record within the meaning of this term. By definition a "communication" (as that term is defined herein) is also a "record" if the means of communication is any written, recorded, or graphic matter of any sort whatsoever, regardless of how recorded, and whether original or copy.

The terms "and" and "or" should be construed broadly and either conjunctively or disjunctively to bring within the scope of this request any information which might otherwise be construed to be outside its scope. The terms "all," "any," and "each" should each be construed as 'encompassing any and all. The singular includes the plural number, and vice versa. The present tense includes the past and vice versa. The masculine includes the feminine and neuter genders.



"Communications with," "communications from," and "communications between" means any communication involving the related parties, regardless of whether other persons were involved in the communication, and includes, but is not limited to, communications where one party is cc'd or bcc'd, both parties are cc'd or bcc'd, or some combination thereof.

Please consider all members of a document "family" to be responsive to the request if any single "member" of that "family" is responsive, regardless of whether the "family member" in question is "parent" or "child."

In the interest of expediency and to minimize the research and/or duplication burden on your staff, please send records electronically if possible. If this is not possible, please notify me before sending to the mailing address listed below. If access to this request will take longer than twenty business days, please let me know when I might receive records or be able to inspect the requested records. Please produce responsive documents as soon as they become available. In all cases, please communicate with me at the below email address.

Please comply fully with 5 U.S.C. § 552(b). Accordingly, without limitation to the foregoing, if any portion of this request is denied for any reason, please provide written notice of the records or portions of records that are being withheld and cite each specific exemption of the Freedom of Information Act on which the agency relies. Moreover, to the extent that responsive records may be withheld in part produce all reasonably segregable portions of those records. Additionally, please provide all responsive documents even if they are redacted in full.

Fee Waiver Request

This request is primarily and fundamentally for non-commercial purposes. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, Heritage Foundation does not have a commercial purpose and the release of the information requested is not in Heritage Foundation's commercial interest. Heritage Foundation's mission is to is to formulate and promote public policies based on the principles of free enterprise, limited government, individual freedom, traditional American values, and a strong national defense. Heritage Foundation uses the information requested and



analyzes it in order to educate the public through social media,¹ broadcast media² (traditional and nontraditional) and press releases.³ The requested information is in the public interest because the U.S. Gov't hired a pro-Hamas PLO spokeswoman to handle asylum claims.⁴

Because this is a request by a member of the news media for information of public interest, made in my capacity as an author for the Daily Signal⁵ (a major news outlet⁶), I actively gather information of potential interest to our Daily Signal audience, and I use my editorial skills to turn raw materials into a distinct work, and I distribute that work to our Daily Signal audience through podcasts⁷ or articles. I also post our distinct work on our Oversight Project social media page.⁸ By function, the Oversight Project is primarily engaged in disseminating information to the public. Staff members for the Oversight Project regularly appear in television, radio, print, and other forms of media to provide expert commentary on salient issues in the national debate. I request that you waive all applicable fees associated with this request.

If you deny this request for a fee waiver, please advise me in advance of the estimated charges if they are to exceed \$50. Please send me a detailed and itemized explanation of those charges.

Request for Expedited Processing

¹ Heritage Foundation on X. [@ Heritage] (Accessed: 2023, October 4). 676.4K Followers on X. https://twitter.com/Heritage

² Fox News. (Accessed: 2023, October 4). Heritage Foundation launches Conservative Oversight Project aimed at 'exposing' Biden admin, leftist policies. https://www.foxnews.com/politics/heritage-conservative-oversight-project-biden-admin-leftist-policies

³ Heritage Foundation. (Accessed: 2023, August, 14). Press. https://www.heritage.org/press.

⁴ Daily Wire. (Accessed: 2023, October 18). The U.S. Gov't Hired A Pro-Hamas PLO Spokeswoman To Handle Asylum Claims https://www.dailywire.com/news/the-u-s-govt-hired-a-pro-hamas-plo-spokeswoman-to-handle-asylum-claims

⁵ Daily Signal. (Accessed: 2023, August, 14). Mike Howell. https://www.dailysignal.com/author/mike-howell/

⁶ Daily Signal. [@DailySignal] (Accessed: 2023, August, 14). 83.9K Followers on X. https://twitter.com/DailySignal

⁷ Apple. (Accessed: 2023, August, 14). The Daily Signal Podcast. https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/the-daily-signal-podcast/id1313611947

⁸ Oversight Project. [@OversightPR] (Accessed: 2023, August 14). 7,694 Followers on X. https://twitter.com/oversightpr



Pursuant to 6 C.F.R. § 5.5(e)(1)(iv), I request expedited processing for this request. I certify the following statement of facts in support of expedited processing to be true and correct pursuant to 6 C.F.R. § 5.5(e)(1)(iv).

Expedited processing is warranted under 6 C.F.R. § 5.5(e)(1)(iv).

1. This section provides that requests for expedited processing "will" be granted when the request involves "[a] matter of widespread and exceptional media interest in which there exist possible questions about the government's integrity which affect public confidence."

Section 6 C.F.R. § 5.5(e)(1)(iv) mirrors the Department of Justice regulation governing expedited processing, 28 C.F.R. § 16.5(e)(1)(iv), which provides that expedited processing shall be granted regarding "[a] matter of widespread and exceptional media interest in which there exists possible questions about the government's integrity which affect public confidence."

Courts have held that the DOJ Regulation requires the requester to show: (1) that the request involves a "matter of widespread and exceptional media interest" (28 C.F.R. § 16.5(e)(1)(iv)); and (2) that the matter is one "in which there exists possible questions about the integrity of the government that affect public confidence" (id.). See Edmonds v. FBI, No. 02-cv-1294 (ESH), 2002 WL 32539613, *3 (D.D.C. Dec. 3, 2002). It is not necessary to show "prejudice or a matter of current exigency to the American public." Id.

First, the DOJ Regulation requires showing that the matter about which questions of integrity have been raised is the subject of widespread national media attention. See Am. Oversight v. DOJ, 292 F.Supp.3d 501, 507–508 (D.D.C. 2018)

(denying motion for expedited processing because general media interest in Solicitor General's nomination is insufficient to show media interest in possible ethics questions concerning the nomination). There need not be a showing that the disclosure would shed considerable light on agency operations; only that there is "exceptional" and "widespread" media interest. See CREW v. DOJ, 870 F.Supp.2d 70, 81 (D.D.C. 2012), rev'd on other grounds, 746 F.3d 1082 (D.C. Cir. 2014). While the media interest need be "widespread" and "exceptional" it need not be overwhelming. See ACLU, 321 F.Supp.2d at 31–32 (rejecting DOJ's position that requester's citation to what the court described as "only a handful of articles" was insufficient to show



"widespread and exceptional media interest" because those articles "were published in a variety of publications and repeatedly reference the ongoing national discussion about the Patriot Act and Section 215" (second quotation added)); Edmonds, 2002 WL 32539613, at *3 (numerous national newspaper and network television broadcasts concerning whistleblower's allegations of security lapses in FBI translator program met test).

Second, the DOJ Regulation requires showing that "there exists possible questions about the government's integrity that affect public confidence." CREW v. DOJ, 436 F.Supp.3d 354, 361 (D.D.C. 2020) (quoting 28 C.F.R. § 16.5(e)(1)(4)) (emphasis by Court). 10 It does not "require the requester to prove wrongdoing by the government in order to obtain documents on an expedited basis." Id. at 362. "The primary way to determine whether such possible questions exist is by examining the state of public coverage of the matter at issue, and whether that coverage surfaces possible ethics issues so potentially significant as to reduce public confidence in governmental institutions." Am. Oversight v. DOJ, 292 F.Supp.3d 501, 508 (D.D.C. 2018). This is not an extraordinarily high bar. See, e.g., CREW, 436 F.Supp.3d at 361 (complaint sufficient to survive a motion to dismiss where it alleged Attorney General's action regarding disclosure of Mueller Report "supported an inference that at best, the Attorney General undertook to frame the public discussion on his own terms, and at worst that he distorted the truth"); ACLU v. DOJ, 321 F.Supp.2d 24, 32 (D.D.C. 2004) (allegations in press that Section 215 of the Patriot Act may be unconstitutional and reports that Members of Congress have alleged abuses of Section 215 "implicate[] government integrity" and hence are sufficient to meet test); Edmonds, 2002 WL 32539613, at *3–4 (test met where plaintiff alleged security lapses in FBI translators program, national news covered the issue, and two Senators expressed concern regarding "the significant security issues raised by plaintiff's allegations and the integrity of the FBI"). 11

9

⁹ Cf. 28 C.F.R. § 16.5(e)(3) ("The existence of numerous articles published on a given subject can be helpful in establishing the requirement that there be an 'urgency to inform' the public on the topic.").

 ¹⁰ To be sure, this standard does not require expedition of any questions concerning government integrity. See, e.g., White v. DOJ, 16 F.4th 539, 544 (7th Cir. 2021) (test not met in case where records sought to cast doubt on requestors' criminal conviction where requestor claimed he was subject to an elaborate government sting operation).
 11 DOJ has granted expedition under the DOJ Regulation in a number of circumstances. See, e.g., CREW v. DOJ, 870 F.Supp.2d at 81 n. 14 (expedition granted to request seeking records on FBI's closed investigation of Congressman DeLay for misconduct which did not result in charges, but received considerable media attention (subsequent history omitted)); CREW v. DOJ, 820 F.Supp.2d 39, 42, 46 (D.D.C. 2011) (expedition granted to request seeking information concerning possible deletion of Office of Legal Counsel emails where the possible



The following articles are attached and expressly incorporated herein and made part of this request:

Appendix 1: Articles published by news organizations and attached to the end of this document

Daily Wire: The U.S. Gov't Hired A Pro-Hamas PLO Spokeswoman To Handle Asylum Claims¹²

Wokelish: The U.S. Gov't Hired A Pro-Hamas PLO Spokeswoman To Handle Asylum Claims¹³

New York Post: Progressives call for US to take in some of the expected 1 million Gaza refugees¹⁴

The Washington Post: As Israel pummels besieged Gaza, Egypt resists opening up to refugees 15

Thank you in advance for considering my request. If you have any questions, or feel you need clarification of this request please contact me at oversightproject@heritage.org.

Sincerely,

Mike Howell Director and Columnist at The Daily Signal The Heritage Foundation 214 Massachusetts Ave, NE Washington, D.C. 20002

deletion was flagged as a hindrance in an internal investigation, covered in the media, and was the subject of Congressional concerns); Elec. Frontier Found. v. DOJ, 565 F.Supp.2d 188, 189–91 (D.D.C. 2008) (expedition granted to request seeking information regarding storage of information obtained by National Security Letters in FBI's Data Warehouse); CREW v. DOJ, No. 05-cv-2078 (EGS), 2006 WL 1518964, *1 (D.D.C. June 1, 2006) (expedition granted to request concerning government's decision to seek a reduced penalty in tobacco litigation where government's decision was subject to intensive news coverage and prompted concern from "several Congressman" which caused a request for an Inspector General investigation of "improper political interference" with the decision).

¹² https://www.dailywire.com/news/the-u-s-govt-hired-a-pro-hamas-plo-spokeswoman-to-handle-asylum-claims

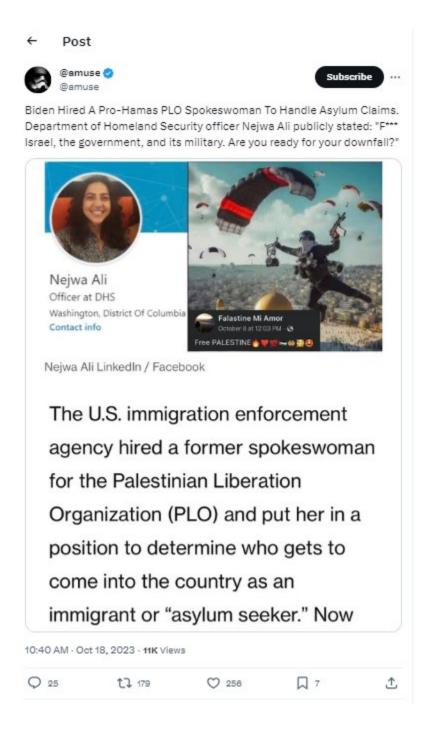
¹³ https://wokelish.com/articles/the-u-s-govt-hired-a-pro-hamas-plo-spokeswoman-to-handle-asylum-claims

¹⁴ https://nypost.com/2023/10/14/progressives-call-for-us-to-take-refugees-from-gaza/

¹⁵ https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2023/10/13/egypt-gaza-border-palestinian-refugees-israel/



Appendix 2: Citizen journalists on X





Post



Another screen shot from Nejwa Ali's social media. She posts under the name Falastine mi amour. How can this person be trusted to work for the US Home Security?







← Post



In case you're still wondering who's freely crossing our border...

The U.S. Gov't Hired A Pro-Hamas PLO Spokeswoman To Handle Asylum Claims

"F^** Israel, the government, and its military. Are you ready for your downfall?" DHS officer Nejwa Ali said.



10:42 AM · Oct 18, 2023 · 10.2K Views

Q 16	1, 315	□ 10	1





The Biden DHS hired a pro-Hamas spokeswoman to handle asylum claims.

"Fuck Israel, the government, and its military. Are you ready for your downfall?" Department of Homeland Security officer Nejwa Ali said.



10:49 AM · Oct 18, 2023 · 2,596 Views

Q 24	₹7 104	♥ 111	□ 4	1



Appendix 2

DAILYWIRE

INVESTIGATION

The U.S. Gov't Hired A Pro-Hamas PLO Spokeswoman To Handle Asylum Claims

"F*** Israel, the government, and its military. Are you ready for your downfall?" Department of Homeland Security officer Nejwa Ali said.

By Luke Rosiak

Oct 18, 2023 DailyWire.com



Nejwa Ali Officer at DHS Washington, District Of Columbia Contact info

Nejwa Ali LinkedIn / Facebook

>

"asylum seeker." Now the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) officer is repeatedly posting pictures of Hamas terrorists parachuting in with guns and writing, "F*** Israel and any Jew who supports Israel," a Daily Wire investigation found.

Nejwa Ali worked in 2016 and 2017 as a public affairs officer for the Palestinian Delegation to the U.S., which according to its own website, served as the "PLO office in D.C." That office was expelled from the country by the Trump administration, but Ali landed on her feet, according to a screenshot of her LinkedIn profile, securing a job at DHS as an "Asylum Officer," where she was tasked with "applying immigration laws and regulations to asylum applications."



This January, she moved over to being an Adjudication Officer for the U.S.

X

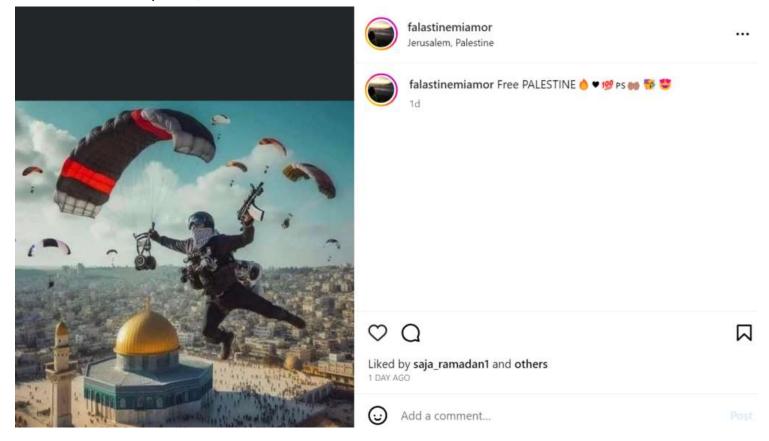
written reports of findings, and review and make determinations on cases for immigration benefits."

Though Ali's job at DHS included vetting people to make sure they were not a threat to the country before letting them in, it's not clear that anyone from the agency vetted her. That her primary allegiance was to the Palestinians, not the United States, was evident from her social media profiles, where she posts as "Falastine Mi Amor."

She has posted extremist rhetoric continuously to Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter for years — rhetoric that intensified this month as Palestinian terrorists murdered over 1,000 Jews on October 7 and Ali cheered. "F*** Israel, the government, and its military. Are you ready for your downfall?" she wrote on Instagram after the attacks.

According to her social media profiles - which say she is "American

Ali has made several posts glorifying the terrorist attacks on Israel, including one depicting armed terrorists paragliding into the Jewish state with the caption, "Free PALESTINE."

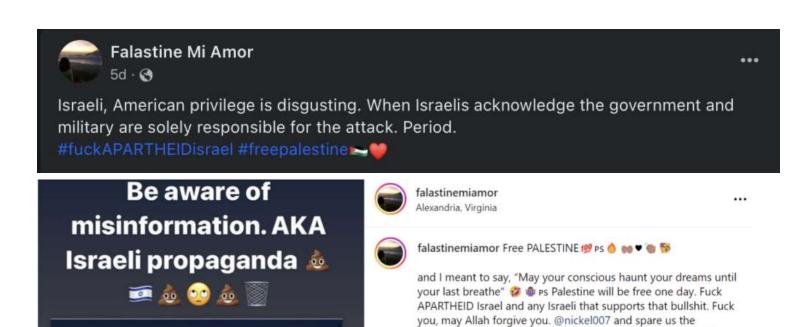


Apologies," a suggestion that as long as Israel exists on what she considers occupied land, attacks on civilians are acceptable.

Jews seeking to come to America might have a hard time if Ali were their immigration officer. "Israeli, American privilege is disgusting. When Israelis acknowledge the government and military are solely responsible for the attack. Period," she wrote. "I hold every Israeli accountable for their governments [sic] actions, IF they do not speak against Israel."

On October 9, she posted to Facebook: "How Nejwa wakes up," accompanied by a video captioned "F*** Israel and any Jew that supports Israel" and a photo that says "A nation that has nothing but Allah has everything it will ever need." She also added an anti-Semitic cartoon of a Jewish nose.

She has also claimed that the media is pushing Israeli propaganda,



"Palestine will be free one day. F*** APARTHEID Israel and any Israeli that supports that bulls***. F*** you, may Allah forgive you. and spare us the crocodile tears, I sure as hell give zero f***s," she wrote on Instagram.

Edited - 18h

USCIS spokesman Matthew Bourke told The Daily Wire that "USCIS strongly condemns antisemitism and the use of violent rhetoric in any form."

"USCIS employees are held to high ethical standards both on and off duty, including their presence on social media," Bourke said. "Any violation of these standards is taken seriously by the agency."

But a day after The Daily Wire asked the agency about Ali, she told The Daily Wire in a phone call that she still works for DHS, and was decidedly unchastened.

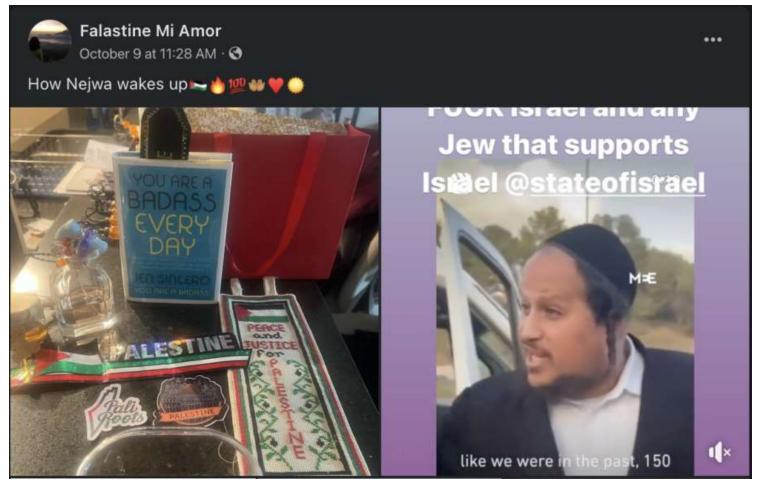
WATCH LIVE (2)

MEWS

crocodile tears, I sure as hell give zero fucks. Good luck in life.

police. If I were you I'd respectfully hang up the phone right now."

Asked if her views on Israel impacted her ability to work as an American government official, she said, "That does not affect the ability to do my job at all. You can mind your own business."



USCIS declined to say why it would hire someone who previously worked for a foreign quasi-government that was expelled from the United States and put them in position to determine who was allowed to come into the country.

It said, "applicants seeking employment with USCIS are thoroughly vetted

But it declined to shed light on the two apparent possibilities: that USCIS either knowingly hired a PLO employee who had demonstrated extremist views, or it was completely in the dark about its own employees' recent employment and public records.

USCIS would not say whether it called PLO officials for a job reference – calling past employers is a standard part of the government vetting process. Ali has recently scrubbed her LinkedIn profile of her work with the PLO, as well as an internship with UNRWA, the United Nations agency tasked with helping Palestinians.

Ali's extreme foreign policy views were evident long before she was hired by the government in 2019, during the Trump administration. Her clear animating force in life appears to be pushing the Islamic socialist message of the PLO.

During the Obama administration, on social media she lobbied for it to <u>"BOYCOTT ISRAEL"</u> and "End AID 2 ISRAEL," and during the 2016 election, she complained that <u>"Republicans OBSESS over Israel"</u> and called for "decolonization."

"F*** APARTHEID Israel and any Israeli that supports that bulls***. F*** you, may allah forgive you," she wrote, alongside pictures of violent leftist Americans Assata Shakur and Malcolm X. In 2017, she posted a picture of herself grinning in front of a statute of Che Guevara, the murderous Communist militant.



The United States is <u>facing pressure from the political Left</u> to welcome Palestinian refugees into the country amid Israel's war against Hamas in the Gaza Strip. It is officers like Ali who would be tasked with advising the government whether or not it would be safe to grant entry to an applicant.

Ali's position on Israel goes squarely against the policy of the United States. President Joe Biden has said that his administration stands firmly



Scientist: Do This to Help Treat Tinnitus & Fight Ringing Ears (Watch)

nycl-dailyhealthnews

The 'Skinny Gummy' Sensation: Taking District of Columbia by Storm

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Nikki Haley's Message to Bibi is the Key to Winning This War

Israel Unwired

Here Are 23 of the Coolest Gifts for This 2023

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Health-Review24

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the Main Enemy of Diabetes

Easy DIY Power Plan

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Recommended for you

Israel Defense Forces: Terrorists Fired Rocket That Killed 500+ At Gaza Hospital

By Ryan Saavedra

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15 minutes ago

Replying to soundmind

How was she able to infiltrate DHS? No need to "infiltrate." This is completely consistent with the practices of The Party as implemented by The Regime.

Show 1 more reply

ConservativeCouple

35 minutes ago

Will Republicans start running and supporting serious politicians before then? We seem to be a long way from that.

lmapplebaum7110

16 minutes ago

No, the US has been taken over by enemies, both foreign and domestic, from within and from without.

JKinVA ···

24 seconds ago

Absolutely not. In the weeks immediately following 9/11, Muslims and leftist groups were already demanding the U.S. flag stop being flown on school buses and in classrooms. Apparently the little darlings imported from the third world couldn't bear the sight of the flag of their adoptive homeland.

lt...

See more

→ Show 3 more replies

vicks2552126 •••

1 hour ago

performance and personalization.

Unfortunately, this is the kind of anti-Semitism that I have come to expect from all things related to this administration. He may be mouthing the right words now of necessity, but it will not be long before they swing back to supporting terrorist the world over.

In regards the "free Palestine" thi...See more

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My own background check to work with the DOD took two years to complete. There was no way that legitimate background check was done for this girl someone knowingly, let her get hired.

UltraSBG21 ···

1 hour ago

This is so disturbing. She needs to be let go. Imagine if a member of the KKK were in that position and posting similar stuff only towards other individuals. People have gotten fired for way less. She can have her freedom of speech but not on our dime. Bye.

jameelacosta6704 ····

1 hour ago

Is there a job out there to get these people out of our country? I would be more than happy to go after people who practice true hate speech and open racism in our government. She is a danger to our country and needs to be removed. It is unfortunate that hate has such a strong grip on her heart.

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Chapel: Report

By Daily Wire News

Role In 'Snow White And The Evil Queen'

By Amanda Prestigiacomo



Israel Takes Out Another Hamas Commander, 'One Of The Most Dominant Figures In The Terrorist Organization'

By Zach Jewell

The U.S. Gov't Hired A Pro-Hamas PLO Spokeswoman To Handle Asylum Claims

By Luke Rosiak

Hezbollah Calls For 'Day Of Unprecedented Anger' At Israel, U.S.; U.S. Issues Lebanon Travel Advisory

By Ryan Saavedra

Arab Leaders Cancel Meeting With Biden After Palestinians Hit Their Own Hospital With Rocket

By Ryan Saavedra

'It's An SOS': Texas Community Reels As

Daily Wire Announces Live-Action 'Snow

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The U.S. Gov't Hired A Pro-Hamas PLO Spokeswoman To Handle Asylum Claims

by: Luke Rosiak Oct. 18, 2023 Source: The Daily Wire



man waving flag by Ahmed Abu Hameeda is licensed under Unsplash unsplash,com

The U.S. immigration enforcement agency hired a former spokeswoman for the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and put her in a position to determine who gets to come into the country as an immigrant or "asylum seeker." Now the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) officer is repeatedly posting pictures of Hamas terrorists parachuting in with guns and writing, "F*** Israel and any Jew who supports Israel," a Daily Wire investigation found.

Nejwa Ali worked in 2016 and 2017 as a public affairs officer for the Palestinian Delegation to the U.S., which according to its own website, served as the "PLO office in D.C." That office was expelled from the country by the Trump administration, but Ali landed on her feet, according to a screenshot of her LinkedIn profile, securing a job at DHS as an "Asylum Officer," where she was tasked with "applying immigration laws and regulations to asylum applications."

This January, she moved over to being an Adjudication Officer for the U.S. Customs and Immigration Service (CIS). People with that job, <u>according to the agency</u>, "analyze new or amended legislation and policy, prepare written reports of findings, and review and make determinations on cases for immigration benefits."

Though Ali's job at DHS included vetting people to make sure they were not a threat to the country before letting them in, it's not clear that anyone from the agency vetted her. That her primary allegiance was to the Palestinians, not the United States, was evident from her social media profiles, where she posts as "Falastine Mi Amor."



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she wrote on Instagram after the attacks.

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Experts predict a million refugees might flee the Gaza Strip amid the war between Israel and Hamas, and socialists and far-left lawmakers said America should welcome them.

"Fifty percent of the population in Gaza are children. The international community as well as the United States should be prepared to welcome refugees from Palestine while being very careful to vet and not allow members of Hamas," said Rep. Jamaal Bowman, a New York member of the Socialist-Democratic "Squad" who remains under investigation for pulling a fire alarm in the House Cannon Office Building earlier this month.

But Republicans have already slammed the door shut on the issue.

Sens. Ted Cruz (R-Texas), Tom Cotton (R-Ark.), Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) and Rick Scott (R-Fla.) said they would oppose Palestinian resettlement efforts here.

"The U.S. is the most generous nation in the world, but we are in no position to accept additional refugees, especially from a region with as high a risk of terrorism, given our nation's inability to secure our own border or vet those who are already here," Rubio told The Post.

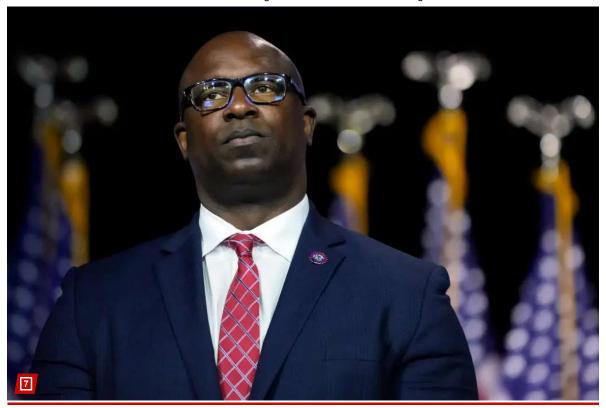




Scott added that "the entire focus of the United States right now should be on rescuing American hostages, and making sure that Israel has every resource needed to defeat Iran backed-Hamas and defend its homeland."



Some Progressive politicians are calling on the United States to take refugees from Gaza. AFP via Getty Images



Rep. Jamaal Bowman has called for the United States should welcome refugees from Gaza. AP



Experts say the current fighting between Israel and Hamas could create more than a million refugees. NurPhoto via Getty Images



Israel is widely believed to be preparing a ground invasion of Gaza in the coming days. Getty Images



Israeli artillery has been pummeling Gaza for a week. ZUMAPRESS.com

Cotton said "Iran should take responsibility for any Palestinian refugees caused by its proxy . . . war with Israel. Iran is responsible for the death and destruction — it should be responsible for refugees as well."

The White House repeatedly refused to say whether it would be open to accepting refugees from the conflict.

Follow along with The Post's live blog for the latest on Hamas' attack on Israel

"We continue to provide support to Palestinian refugees through the UN," a spokesman said. "The United States also has a worldwide refugee resettlement program in partnership with The UN Refugee Agency."

Mariana Dahan, founder of the World Identity Network (WIN) Foundation, estimated the "conflict . . . may add over 1 million people to the already staggering number of 6 million Palestinian refugees in the world."



GOP Senator Ted Cruz said he would oppose Palestinian resettlement in the United States. ZUMAPRESS.com



GOP Senator Marco Rubio said he was against Palestinian resettlement in the United States. ZUMAPRESS.com

The United States took in 25,465 refugees from around the world in 2022, a 123% increase from 2021, according to State Department records.



What do you think? Post a comment.

Approximately 170,000 Palestinians live in the United States, according to census data.

Squad member Rep. Rashida Tlaib (D-MI) is the only Palestinian-American in Congress and currently flies a Palestinian flag outside her House office.

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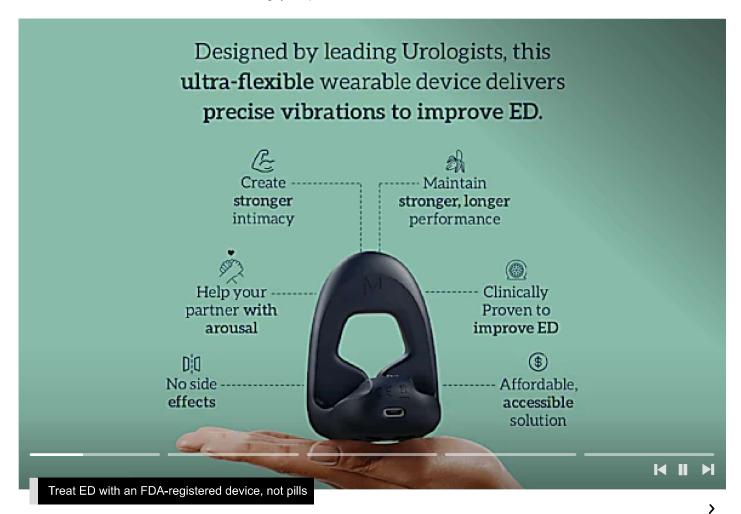
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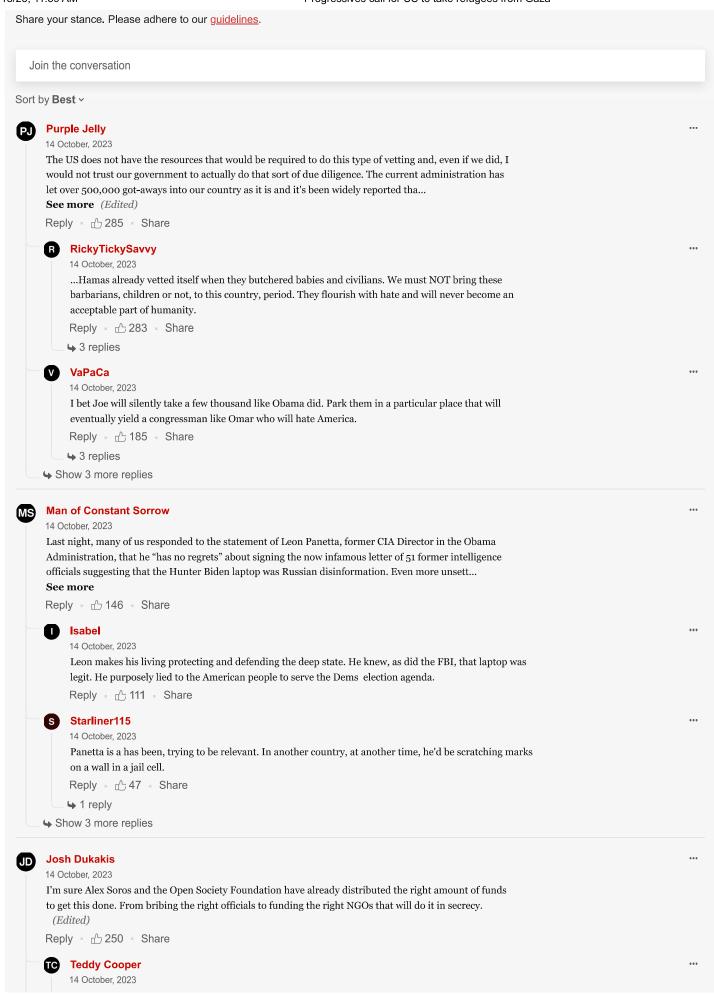
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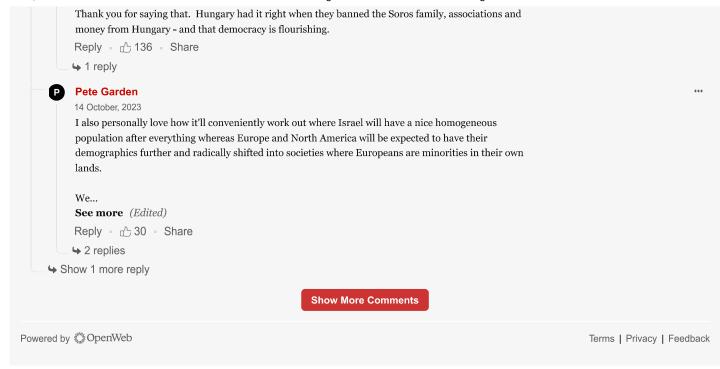


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The Washington Post

Democracy Dies in Darkness

As Israel pummels besieged Gaza, Egypt resists opening up to refugees



By Claire Parker

October 13, 2023 at 5:01 p.m. EDT

CAIRO — With more than 1,500 people dead in Gaza and hundreds of thousands displaced by the Israeli military's relentless bombardment of the <u>Gaza Strip</u>, global attention has focused on the Rafah border crossing with Egypt, the only viable way out of the densely populated enclave.

But Cairo, wary of political fallout and security risks, is determined to prevent an exodus of refugees to Egypt — warning it could be a death knell for the Palestinian dream of statehood.

The crossing point at Gaza's southern edge has been effectively closed since Tuesday after Israeli airstrikes damaged infrastructure in the area.

Israel-Gaza war

<u>President Biden will visit Israel</u> on Wednesday to show solidarity "in the face of <u>Hamas's brutal terrorist attack</u>" before traveling to Jordan to discuss <u>Gaza's humanitarian crisis</u>. Follow the <u>latest news and live updates</u>.

(Mohammed Saber/EPA-EFE/Shutterstock)

As the humanitarian crisis in Gaza grows more dire by the hour, there are intensifying calls for the opening of a humanitarian corridor to bring in desperately needed food, water, fuel and medical supplies. <u>Israel's sudden evacuation order</u> Friday for the more than 1.1 million residents of Gaza City has added to the pressure.

In a statement Friday evening, Egypt's Foreign Ministry called the Israeli evacuation order "a grave violation of the rules of international humanitarian law."

Egypt is stockpiling aid sent by humanitarian organizations and Middle Eastern countries in northern Sinai, ready to be driven into Gaza should the Rafah crossing reopen. The country also launched a blood drive Thursday under orders from President Abdel Fatah El-Sisi.

In a speech at a military academy on Thursday evening, Sisi said Egypt — long a key interlocutor between Israel and Palestinian factions — was "ready to coordinate with all parties" and "keen to deliver humanitarian and medical aid to the [Gaza] Strip."

Sisi and Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry have engaged in a flurry of phone calls and meetings with governments around the world in recent days.

But the question of whether to permit large numbers of Palestinians to exit Gaza to Egypt has revived a decades-old dilemma for Cairo. The government is concerned about security in the Sinai region and wants to avoid being seen as complicit in a campaign that could force Palestinians out of Gaza for good.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told Palestinians in Gaza to "get out now" on Saturday, as he vowed to avenge the shocking attack by Hamas militants inside Israel that killed at least 1,300 people. But for Gazans, who have lived for 16 years under a blockade maintained by Israel and Egypt, that is currently an impossible ask.

Even in times of relative peace, Egypt maintains tight control of the border. Palestinians wishing to exit Gaza must obtain permission from both Palestinian and Egyptian authorities. Wait times are long, and getting access to a speedier route often requires paying a hefty fee to private travel agencies. Northern Sinai, where Egypt has battled Islamist militants for a decade, is heavily militarized.

Egypt has taken in sizable numbers of refugees from other conflicts, including those displaced this year by the fighting in neighboring Sudan. But Sinai is more sensitive, and the Palestinian question is much more fraught.

Unnamed Egyptian security sources told Sky News Arabia on Tuesday that "there is a plan to liquidate Palestinian lands and force Palestinians to choose between death and displacement."

It is far from clear that large numbers of Palestinians have any desire to flee their home for Egypt, despite the dangers.

"When we say that [the border] should be open for Gazans and give them the agency" to leave, said Nancy Okail, president of the D.C.-based Center for International Policy, "in reality, that's not really a choice. When you're trapped between death and leaving, that's not giving people a choice — that's forcing people."

The mass displacement of Palestinians during the founding of the state of Israel in 1948 — an event Palestinians refer to as the Nakba, or "catastrophe" in Arabic — remains a profound source of intergenerational trauma. Some <u>70</u> percent of Gazans are already refugees, having fled or been forced from their homes in parts of what is now Israel, and never allowed to return.

"We see these pro forma statements about a two-state solution, but I don't think Gazans can count on the idea that if they were forced to leave, that there would be much in the way of pressure to get them back," said H.A. Hellyer, an analyst in the Middle East Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

For Egypt, a massive influx of Palestinian refugees would pose significant political and security risks, analysts said. Public opinion is deeply sympathetic to the Palestinian cause, an issue with the rare power to ignite public anger in an authoritarian country where meaningful protest is effectively outlawed.

Talk of pushing Palestinians to Sinai as a more permanent solution is "not acceptable," former Egyptian foreign minister Mohamed al-Orabi, now chairman of the government-linked Egyptian Foreign Relations Council, told The Washington Post. "If you were to talk about this alternative home, this would be the end of the Palestinian question."

Before the war, Sisi was already under significant domestic pressure, with the Egyptian economy in free-fall and a presidential election scheduled for December. Sisi faces no real threat at the ballot box, but rumblings of dissent have grown louder in recent months.

"Politically, I don't think any Arab state wants to be seen as helping the displacement of the Palestinian population," said Timothy Kaldas, deputy director of the D.C.-based Tahrir Institute for Middle East Policy.

In public comments this week, Sisi has been careful to emphasize Egypt's support for a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and has called repeatedly for peace.

On Thursday, he rejected "relentless efforts by multiple parties" to push a resolution to the Palestinian question that diverges from the 1993 Oslo accords, the international agreements that were meant to pave the way for a Palestinian state.

"The Palestinian cause is the cause of all Arabs, and Palestinians should stay on their lands," he said.

Egypt is trying to advance a "prudent policy," al-Orabi, the former foreign minister, said — one oriented around organizing aid deliveries, taking in smaller numbers of injured Palestinians for medical treatment and helping foreign nationals to leave Gaza.

UNICEF, the United Nations children's agency, is operating under the assumption that "there will be an opportunity — a humanitarian corridor — where the crossing will be open for supplies," Jeremy Hopkins, the agency's Egypt representative, told The Post on Thursday.

UNICEF is also working with the Egyptian Red Crescent to ready medical and other services in Egypt for groups of particularly vulnerable Palestinians who may be allowed to cross the border.

"They are talking about small numbers of people — thousands but not hundreds of thousands — being allowed to cross the border to seek assistance," he said.

Even if accepting large numbers of refugees was politically palatable, it would be logistically challenging to accommodate them in northern Sinai, humanitarian and rights groups say. The regional governor on Sunday directed local authorities to prepare for hosting displaced people by identifying schools, residential units and vacant lots that could be used as shelters.

But the border region is ill-equipped to handle hundreds of thousands of refugees, according to Ahmed Salem, executive director of the Sinai Foundation for Human Rights, a U.K.-registered rights groups with a team based in northern Sinai.

During Egypt's decade-long fight against an Islamic State-linked insurgency in Sinai, dozens of local schools — facilities often used in crisis situations to house displaced people — have been destroyed or taken over by the military. And the main hospital in Arish has insufficient food, staff and medical supplies to handle a major influx of wounded people, Salem said.

Security is also likely on the minds of Egyptian authorities: It would be difficult to prevent Hamas fighters from slipping into Egypt among groups of refugees, Kaldas said, and Egypt might fear weapons would cross over and fuel militancy in Sinai.

The Sinai Foundation for Human Rights recorded an uptick in Egyptian military patrols, troops and vehicles in the border region in recent days.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken is scheduled to travel to Cairo on Sunday, as part of a whirlwind tour to countries in the region aimed at containing the conflict. Egyptian officials will aim to convince American officials to push for a peace process, al-Orabi said.

"Israel should restrain [itself] now," he said. "This vicious circle of violence, it will not end the Palestinian question, it will not kill all the Palestinians. They will remain and they will resist."

Heba Farouk Mahfouz contributed to this report.