

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

August 21, 2024

The Honorable Janet Yellen
Secretary
U. S. Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20220

Dear Secretary Yellen:

The Committee on Oversight and Accountability and the Committee on Education and the Workforce are writing to reiterate our May 14, 2024, request to the U. S. Department of the Treasury (Treasury) for Suspicious Activity Reports (SARs) for certain groups associated with illegal and antisemitic activities, including on college campuses around the country.¹ Treasury has yet to produce a single document. The Committees expect Treasury to produce these documents in full as soon as possible.

As we previously wrote on May 14, 2024, the Committees are investigating the sources of funding and financing for groups who are organizing, leading, and participating in pro-Hamas, antisemitic, anti-Israel, and anti-American protests with illegal encampments on American college campuses.² Over the summer, illegal and antisemitic activities have continued off-campus, including recent violent demonstrations at the U. S. Capitol and Columbus Circle in Washington, D.C.³ Four of the entities listed in the Committees' request are sponsors or active participants in recent events in Washington, D.C.: Westchester Political Action Committee Foundation (WESPAC Foundation), Samidoun, Jewish Voice for Peace, and The People's Forum.⁴ The Palestinian Youth Movement, whose fiscal sponsor is WESPAC Foundation and regularly organizes events with Samidoun,⁵ recently took credit for releasing maggots and activating fire alarms in the Watergate Hotel in Washington, D.C., where Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was staying.⁶ The same day, Members of Jewish Voice for Peace illegally occupied the Cannon House Office Building, which resulted in the arrest of more than 200

¹ Letter from Hon. James Comer, Chairman, H. Comm. on Oversight & Accountability & Hon. Virginia Foxx, Chairwoman, H. Comm. on Educ. & the Workforce, to Hon. Janet Yellen, Sec'y, U. S. Dep't of the Treasury (May 14, 2024).

² *Id.*

³ Ayana Archie, *About 200 people protesting Gaza war arrested in congressional building, police say*, NPR (Jul. 24, 2024); NPS director speaks out on revoking permit for pro-Palestinian protests that vandalized Columbus Circle, WTOP NEWS (Jul. 25, 2024).

⁴ Gabe Kaminsky, *Familiar faces: Left-wing dark money groups fuel violent DC protest backing Hamas*, WASH. EXAM'R (Jul. 25, 2024); Ellie Silverman et al., *U.S. flag set ablaze, 23 arrested as thousands protest Netanyahu's D.C. visit*, WASH. POST (Jul. 24, 2024).

⁵ Luke Tress, *Westchester charity manages funding for hardline pro-Palestine groups*, JERUSALEM POST (Feb. 2, 2024); Palestinian Youth Movement, NGO Monitor, available at <https://www.ngo-monitor.org/ngos/palestinian-youth-movement/>.

⁶ Joseph Simonson & Andrew Kerr, *On Secret Service's watch, Palestinian activists release maggots into Bibi's hotel*, WASH. FREE BEACON (Jul. 24, 2024).

people.⁷ The following day, The People’s Forum was a prominent organizer of the July 24, 2024 protest against Prime Minister Netanyahu, which quickly devolved into vandalism of monuments and assault on federal law enforcement officers in Columbus Circle in Washington, D.C.⁸

The Committees made a considerable accommodation to Treasury on June 6, 2024, by prioritizing, for an initial production, a more narrowly scoped range of documents, and Treasury has indicated that this initial prioritized request would encompass fewer than 50 responsive documents. The Committees made this accommodation to ensure that Treasury could deliver an initial batch of responsive documents as soon as possible. However, despite that accommodation, Treasury has not produced the requested documents to date. Moreover, despite multiple requests by the Committees, Treasury has been unable to provide a timeframe for when it anticipates producing even these more limited records.

Considering the serious nature of recent illegal and antisemitic events related to entities named in this investigation, it is imperative that Treasury immediately cooperate and provide the requested documents. We reiterate our May 14, 2014 request that Treasury produce the responsive SARs as soon as possible, but by no later than August 28, 2024. If Treasury continues to fail to cooperate with this investigation voluntarily, the Committees are prepared to utilize other means to obtain this information, including use of compulsory process.

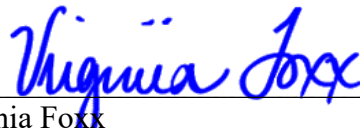
To make arrangements to deliver documents or ask any related follow-up questions, please contact Committee on Oversight and Accountability Majority Staff at (202) 225-5074 or Committee on Education and the Workforce Majority Staff at (202) 225-4527.

The Committee on Oversight and Accountability is the principal oversight committee of the U.S. House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate “any matter” at “any time” under House Rule X. Also under House Rule X, the Committee on Education and the Workforce has legislative and oversight jurisdiction over “education and labor generally.” Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this inquiry.

Sincerely,



James Comer
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Accountability



Virginia Foxx
Chairwoman
Committee on Education and the Workforce

⁷ Ayana Archie, *About 200 people protesting Gaza war arrested in congressional building, police say*, NPR (Jul. 24, 2024).

⁸ Thomas Robertson, *Police looking for people they say assaulted officer, vandalized monuments during Israeli PM’s DC visit*, WTOP NEWS (Jul. 30, 2024).

Hon. Janet Yellen

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cc: The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Accountability

The Honorable Robert C. "Bobby" Scott, Ranking Member
Committee on Education and the Workforce