

s22(1)(a)(ii)

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From: Beth Delaney
Sent: Saturday, January 27, 2024 8:28 AM
To: Anna Oldmeadow <Anna.Oldmeadow@dfat.gov.au>
Cc: s 47F(1) @dfat.gov.au; Marc Innes-Brown <marc.innes@dfat.gov.au>; Craig Maclachlan <Craig.Maclachlan@dfat.gov.au>
Subject: Fwd: US PRESS STATEMENT ALLEGATIONS OF POTENTIAL UNRWA STAFF INVOLVEMENT IN OCT 7 [REDACTED]

Anna,
 As mentioned, some further info from Washington post.
 Best
 Beth

From: s22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au
Date: Saturday, 27 January 2024 at 7:03:38 am
To: s 47E(d) @dfat.gov.au, s22(1)(a)(ii) " s22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au, s22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au, "Beth Delaney" <Beth.Delaney@dfat.gov.au>, "Juliette Brassington" <Juliette.Brassington@dfat.gov.au>, "Dave Vosen" <Dave.Vosen@dfat.gov.au>, "Gemma Huggins" <Gemma.Huggins@dfat.gov.au>, s22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au, "Marc Innes-Brown" <marc.innes@dfat.gov.au>
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<Rebecca.Bryant@dfat.gov.au>

Subject: RE: US PRESS STATEMENT ALLEGATIONS OF POTENTIAL UNRWA STAFF INVOLVEMENT
IN OCT 7 [REDACTED]

All

s 33(a)(iii), s 33(b) [REDACTED], White House spoken person John Kirby said the following in presser just concluded.

On UNRWA:

- suspended any US funds that are not yet allocated – pending results of investigation
- welcome UNSG comments and full investigation
- expect complete and transparent investigation and those who should be held accountable will be, including criminal prosecution.

Q. Asked by Fox about UNRWA, can they be held accountable for the depredations of Hamas?

Kirby said “it looks as if...there is cause to be concerned about the actions of some of the members of UNWRA but that does not, nor should it, impugn the entire agency or the whole body of work they are doing, they have helped save literally thousands of lives in Gaza, they do important work. It doesn’t mean there aren’t some folks in that group that need to be punished for potentially doing this kind of behaviour but that doesn’t impugn the whole organisation”.

Q That is bad if there are 12 people...Kirby: its bad if there is one...Fox: yes and the US is giving them money – how much money?” Kirby: We have suspended funding...don’t have the dollar figures, I will take the question and get back to you but we have suspended unallocated funds pending the outcome of the investigation”.

Q What does this government vet then? (some discussion on UNWRA v the southern border)

Kirby: it is a UN agency and yes we have contributed to their work and that work has been meaningful and also willing to hold them to account for this incident and the alleged behaviour by these employees. Want the investigation to be complete and thorough and transparent. If the investigation determines people need to be held accountable then want to see that too.

Q US policy was not to give money to terrorists but now we are... Kirby dismissed the question, saying that is like saying the whole of UNWRA is a terrorist organisation, Hamas is the terrorist organisation. Now, if the investigation proves the dozen employees were assisting Hamas or involved, then absolutely they need to be held to account, then the US will consider its response and any additional changes necessary in terms of how to support UNRWA going forward.

s22(1)(a)(ii)

From: **s 47E(d)** [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@dfat.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@dfat.gov.au)>

Sent: Friday, January 26, 2024 1:29 PM

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Subject: RE: US PRESS STATEMENT ALLEGATIONS OF POTENTIAL UNRWA STAFF INVOLVEMENT IN OCT 7 [REDACTED]

Importance: High

[REDACTED]

Hi Beth, (as per my phone message),

See link to a US State Department press release on the USG response to allegations that 12 UNWRA staff may have been involved in the Oct 7 Hamas terrorist attack on Israel. [\[Statement on UNRWA Allegations - United States Department of State\]](#). You would have seen the UN statements but attached here for completeness: [\[Serious allegations against UNRWA staff in the Gaza Strip | UNRWA; Statement attributable to the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General – on allegations concerning UNRWA | United Nations Secretary-General\]](#) .

s 33(a)(iii), s 33(b)

rgs

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(copying UNNY post for info.)

s 47E(d)

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s22(1)(a)(ii)

