

**(Washington)---** Congressman Allen West (FL-22) released this statement today:

"Yesterday's announcement by the Palestinian Authority of the formation of a unity government comprised of Fatah and Hamas is deeply troubling. This united front only adds to the overall unrest and instability in the Middle East and is a first step in the unilateral declaration of a Palestinian state.

Any government in which Hamas - a terrorist organization whose charter calls for the destruction of Israel - plays a role, should not receive one dollar from the United States.

This announcement signals that President Abbas has chosen Hamas over peace with Israel, America's strongest ally in the Middle East. Make no mistake, Israel is under attack from an enemy that will stop at nothing until the State of Israel is destroyed, the same enemy that also wants nothing more than to see the United States defeated and diminished.

The United States must remain firm in our commitment to the peace and security of the Jewish State and cease all funding to the Palestinian Authority immediately."

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