

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–2204

August 21, 2025

The Honorable Marco Rubio
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Rubio,

We are writing to call your attention to recent media reports¹ that Middle East extremists are scheduled to speak at the People's Conference for Palestine which will be held in Detroit, Michigan from August 29 – 31, 2025.

For example, according to the reports, Hussam Shaheen will be speaking at the event. In 2004, Shaheen was charged and then jailed for attempted murder and conspiracy to commit murder. This followed his alleged establishment of an Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade cell and planning of an aborted terror attack on Jerusalem. He was released on February 1, 2025, as part of a prisoner swap between Hamas and Israel.

While organizers claim it is “designed to address the current political moment and to bring together critical voices,”² this event and those like it are platforms for inciting violence and anti-Semitism. Anti-Semitic attacks are at a record high³ and have increased dramatically since Hamas’ October 7th terrorist attack in Israel. Our nation is under no obligation to allow those connected with terror groups to enter the U.S. and endanger our communities. In light of these concerns, we urge your Department to deny any travel visas to any such person traveling into the U.S. for this event.

¹ Reyes, R. (2025, August 19). *Palestinian extremist freed in hostage exchange set to discuss “struggle in Zionist prisons” at Detroit Conference*. New York Post. <https://nypost.com/2025/08/19/us-news/palestinian-extremist-freed-in-hostage-exchange-set-to-speak-at-detroit-conference/>

² *Details & faqs*. People's Conference for Palestine • 2025. (n.d.). <https://peoplesconferenceforpalestine.org/about-conference>

³ *Audit of Antisemitic Incidents 2024*. Anti-Defamation League. (22AD). <https://www.adl.org/resources/report/audit-antisemitic-incidents-2024>

We commend President Trump's and your leadership on this issue. The Trump administration and the State Department have acted swiftly to revoke visas from foreign students connected with pro-Hamas groups. We thank the administration for its efforts and look forward to continuing our work with you on keeping our communities safe.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



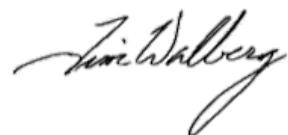
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