



Alliance for Peacebuilding

August 9, 2019

Dear Members of the House Committee on Appropriations:

The 100-plus member Alliance for Peacebuilding (AfP) is the leading global network for organizations working to end violent conflict and sustain peace worldwide. Our members include some of the world's largest development organizations, most innovative academic institutions, and most influential humanitarian and faith-based groups. We build coalitions in key areas of strategy and policy to elevate the entire peacebuilding field, tackling issues too large for any one organization to address alone.

We are writing to express our profound concern about the administration's order to freeze as much as \$4 billion in congressionally-approved funds for foreign assistance, and about reports that it may be preparing to request a rescission of these funds. **We urge you to use your appropriations power to reject a potential rescission and to ensure that the funds are released in a timely fashion, as intended by Congress.**

The hold placed on these funds come at a time when deaths from organized violence have risen over 230 percent globally in the past 10 years. Just fifteen years ago, approximately 80% of humanitarian aid went to helping the victims of natural disasters, but today that ratio is reversed, with 80% of aid going to meet the needs of victims of violent conflict. Wars and violence have triggered the worst displacement and refugee crisis ever recorded, displacing 68.5 million people from their homes. Violent conflict also fuels violent extremism. Over 99% of all deaths caused by terrorism in 2017 occurred in countries involved in violent conflict or with high levels of political terror.

This effort targets as little as 0.09% of the Federal Budget, but this small sliver represents 7% of the funding for the civilian national security tools of the United States. Cutting U.S. diplomacy and development programs undermines national security, damages economic interests, and weakens U.S. moral leadership in the world. Evidence proves that such measures would ultimately risk American lives at home, cost the U.S. taxpayer more in the long run, and endanger America's military overseas.

This potential rescission would have a **significant impact** on the ability of the United States to prevent and manage violent conflict worldwide with serious consequences for the security of American citizens at home. Additionally, it would undermine the programs that are already established on the ground that further the national security interests of the United States abroad and are critical to preventing violent conflict.

Once again, we urge you to use your appropriations power to reject this potential rescission of critical foreign assistance.

Sincerely,

1. Alliance for Peacebuilding
2. Alliance for Middle East Peace
3. American Jewish World Service
4. Basic Education Coalition
5. Better World Campaign
6. The Bridgeway Group
7. Catalyst for Peace
8. Charity & Security Network
9. Colors of Connection
10. Cure Violence Global
11. Department of Peace Operations (DPO)-
PATRIR
12. Educators' Institute for Human Rights
13. Enough Project
14. Envision Zimbabwe Women's Trust
15. FHI 360
16. Friends Committee on National Legislation
17. Global Campaign for Education-US
18. GPPAC Foundation
19. Green String Network
20. Humanity United Action
21. InterAction
22. International Alert
23. International Civil Society Action Network
24. Invisible Children
25. Jewish World Watch
26. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice
27. Leadership Conference of Women Religious
28. Maryknoll Office for Global Concern
29. Mercy Corps
30. Minnesota Peace Project
31. Minnesota Peacebuilding Leadership
Institute
32. Nonviolent Peaceforce
33. Nuru International
34. Office of Peacebuilding and Policy, Church
of the Brethren
35. Outward Bound center for Peacebuilding
36. PartnersGlobal
37. Peace Direct
38. Peace Research and Education Program,
New York University
39. Rural Education and Agriculture
Development Organization (READO)
40. Search for Common Ground
41. Stop Genocide Now
42. Win Without War
43. Women of Color Advancing Peace and
Security
44. World Learning / School for International
Training
45. Young-adult Empowerment Initiative

