



DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
FINANCIAL CRIMES ENFORCEMENT NETWORK

December 10, 2007

Grant F. Smith, Director of Research
Institute for Research, Middle Eastern Policy
Calvert Station
P.O. Box 32041
Washington, D.C. 20007

Re: FinCEN 2008-23

Dear Mr. Smith:

This letter is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the Department of the Treasury dated September 27, 2007, in which you requested documents about "Treasury Department investigations triggered by public revelations that U.S. charitable funds flows are used to illegally confiscate Palestinian lands and commit crimes overseas." Additionally, you requested information about Treasury Department programs designed to combat U.S. charitable money laundering to the West Bank, and certain meeting minutes of key Treasury Department officials, specifically Mr. Levey and Mr. Szubin. The Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) received a referral about your FOIA request from Treasury on November 7, 2007.

FinCEN has completed a search for non-Bank Secrecy Act (BSA) records in its Analysis and Liaison Division including the Offices of Global Support and Global Liaison, but could find no records responsive to your request.

Though FinCEN is authorized by the Secretary of the Treasury to collect information from financial institutions such as Suspicious Activity Reports (that may or may not be responsive to your request) under the Bank Secrecy Act, the BSA information is exempt from disclosure under the FOIA in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(3), which covers records specifically exempted from disclosure by statute. The statutory provision that specifically exempts records collected under the Bank Secrecy Act from disclosure under the FOIA can be found in Section 5319 of Title 31 of the United States Code.

If you believe this response to be in error, you may appeal this determination by writing to the following address: FOIA Appeal, P.O. Box 39, Vienna, VA 22183. The appeal must be received within 35 days from the date of this letter. Both the letter and the

envelope should be clearly marked "FOIA Appeal" and must include a statement explaining why you believe this response is in error.

Sincerely yours,



Amanda Michanczyk
Acting Disclosure Officer