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United States to Hamas: Recognize Israel and Disarm Terrorists

On Oct. 19, U.S. Special Representative for International Negotiations Jason Greenblatt released a statement regarding Hamas' role in the Palestinian unity government following the reconciliation agreement reached between rival Palestinian factions Fatah and Hamas. Greenblatt affirmed that Hamas must recognize Israel and disarm in order to participate in any Palestinian government. "All parties agree that it is essential that the Palestinian Authority be able to assume full, genuine, and unhindered civil and security responsibilities in Gaza and that we work together to improve the humanitarian situation for Palestinians living there," said the Special Representative. "The United States reiterates the importance of adherence to the Quartet principles: any Palestinian government must unambiguously and explicitly commit to non-violence, recognize the State of Israel, accept previous agreements and obligations between the parties – including to disarm terrorists – and commit to peaceful negotiations. If Hamas is to play any role in a Palestinian government, it must accept these basic requirements." Following the release of the statement, Hamas Chief Yahya Sinwar dismissed the U.S. requests, stating, "Over is the time Hamas spent discussing recognizing Israel. Now Hamas will discuss when we will wipe out Israel."

Our Synagogue partners with AIPAC, America's pro-Israel lobby, in educating our community on issues affecting the U.S.-Israel relationship. We encourage you to learn more by contacting AIPAC at synagogue@aipac.org or by visiting www.aipac.org.