

From: Benjamin Ringel [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2009 6:58:19 PM
To: AbedinH@state.gov; Huma Abedin
Subject: Fw: Ashdod Medical Center

RELEASE IN
PART B6

Attachments: AMC 9-16-09 ILettertoSecretaryClinton091609.doc

This is urgent. This hospital deals w many many terror victims.

When u get back to office we need to get them the money.

Ben Ringel
Armstrong Capital LLC

----- Original Message -----

From: Howard Friedman [redacted]
To: Benjamin Ringel
Sent: Thu Sep 24 18:35:51 2009
Subject: FW: Ashdod Medical Center

Ben:

This is a follow up to our conversation regarding the Ashdod Medical Center. I'm attaching a letter that is being circulated by Congressmen and Senators as a 'Dear Colleague' addressed to Secretary Hillary Clinton. The letter is quite clear what the funding is for, and briefly describes the project.

This project was included in the Foreign Ops Bill by both houses and signed by our President, in February 2009, as part of USAID - ASHA. We submitted our application to ASHA this passed June and are awaiting their approval of the application and funding of the project.

Since this bill is under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of State, they need her support to make sure that ASHA actually makes the award to the Ashdod Medical Center.

Howard

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September 16, 2009

The Honorable Hillary Clinton
Secretary of State
Washington, D.C.

RELEASE IN
FULL

Dear Madam Secretary:

As a tremendous supporter of women's human rights including access to healthcare, I hope you will support the funding of the Ashdod Emergency Medical Center in Ashdod, Israel. The Friends of the Ashdod Emergency Medical Center (not-for profit US organization) recently submitted an application under the American Schools and Hospitals Abroad Program at USAID in order to help complete this long awaited medical facility. The Emergency Medical Center, which has been built with private contributions and commitments, is in its final phase of construction and will serve the needs of Israel's fifth-largest city, including a significant number of Americans. Further this funding from USAID will forge a long-term partnership between the Ashdod Emergency Medical Center in Israel and the United States.

This is a project that deserves US assistance. Ashdod is home to approximately 250,000 citizens – Jews and non-Jews, religious and secular, native-born Israelis and immigrants. Ashdod has absorbed more immigrants than any other city in Israel, including significant populations from India, Ethiopia and the former Soviet Union. Approximately 40,000 residents of Ashdod require emergency medical care every year. Unfortunately the closest major medical facility is located in Ashkelon, over 30 minutes away. Kidney patients requiring dialysis must travel this route twice daily. Aside from emergency medical care, the journey to a first-class medical facility is currently not possible for the 21% of Ashdod families who live below the poverty line. The need for a first-class, full-service medical center is overwhelming. The Ashdod Medical Center would answer this need.

In Ashdod and the surrounding areas there is a particular need for accessible quality, health care for women. The Ashdod Emergency Medical Center will provide primary and emergency care but also will specialize in women's mammography, emergency gynecological treatments and family medicine at its Women's Health Center. The Mammography Unit will be a key feature. One woman in eight falls victim to breast cancer in Israel, and in view of this high incidence, mammography testing is essential.

Beginning in December 2008, the residents of Ashdod were exposed to a new and serious threat. For the first time, Ashdod was within the range of rocket attacks launched from Gaza. In December 2008 and January 2009, approximately 20 rockets launched from Gaza landed in Ashdod, killing one woman and injuring a dozen others. The lack of an emergency medical center to treat the victims of these attacks magnifies the threat. The Medical Center, which has been built to conform to the stringent security standards of the Israel Defense Forces, answers this need.

The project is in its final phase of construction. Unfortunately, due to the global economic crisis, tightening credit markets, and the impact of financial scandals on public and private

supporters of the Medical Center, the financing needed to complete the Medical Center has not yet materialized. We therefore hope that USAID will be able to help facilitate the financing and completion of this important facility.

Sincerely,