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One Hundred Nineteenth Congress
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Foreign Affairs
2170 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
www.foreignaffairs.house.gov

November 21, 2025

The Honorable Toayoa Aldridge
Acting Inspector General
1300 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, D.C., 20004

The Honorable Arne Baker
Acting Inspector General
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, D.C., 20520

Dear Acting Inspectors General Aldridge and Baker:

We have raised concerns to the Department of State that remain unaddressed about reports of the destruction of taxpayer-funded food assistance intended for vulnerable populations abroad.¹ These reports raise serious concerns about the Department's program oversight, supply chain integrity, safety of food distribution, and stewardship of taxpayer-funded humanitarian and development aid.

Publicly available accounts and preliminary reports suggest that Secretary Rubio and other State Department officials discarded or destroyed significant quantities of food aid—procured and

¹ *See*, Letter to Secretary Rubio from House Foreign Affairs Ranking Member Meeks, August 6, 2025, regarding emergency food assistance procured by US AID set to be destroyed instead of reaching recipients in need.

distributed under USAID auspices—prior to reaching their intended recipients. The circumstances surrounding these incidents remain unclear, including whether the losses were due to spoilage, diversion, logistical failure, or external interference.

During his testimony before the Foreign Affairs Committee on May 21, 2025, Secretary Rubio, in response to a question about State Department’s delivery delays of bought ready-to-use therapeutic food (also known as RUTFs)², said, “there was no State Department delays.”³ However, after that hearing, public reporting appeared that government officials allowed \$800,000 worth of emergency food commodities⁴ to expire, causing its destruction, despite multiple warnings from concerned USAID staff.⁵ Regardless of cause, such incidents raise serious concerns surrounding the Executive Branch’s possible misuse of congressionally authorized funds, erode the credibility of U.S. foreign aid, and jeopardize our strategic humanitarian objectives.

As announced on May 29, the USAID Office of Inspector General, Inspections and Evaluations division is initiating a series of inspections of the USAID Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) warehouses used to preposition food aid. We respectfully request a status update on those and any other related inspections currently being undertaken.

As the Committee with oversight authority over foreign affairs and foreign assistance, we are committed to ensuring that U.S. aid programs operate with transparency, efficiency, and accountability. Therefore, we also request your offices review the following and would appreciate your response by December 5, 2025:

- 1) The total number, scope, and scale of incidents in which food commodities bought with Congressionally-appropriated foreign assistance have been destroyed at the direction of USAID or State Department officials since January 20, 2025.
- 2) The justifications for and contributing factors leading to such food aid destruction.
- 3) The decision-making processes used to direct and implement such food aid destruction and the degree to which such processes accounted for any internal objections or concerns raised.

² RUTFs: nutrient dense products that can be consumed without preparation and are critical in humanitarian crisis.

³ House Foreign Affairs Committee, “FY26 State Department Posture: Protecting American Interests”, hearing held on May 21, 2025, 119th Congress, at 2:51:23 available at <https://foreignaffairs.house.gov/hearings>

⁴ <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/us-aid-workers-lobbied-weeks-save-food-stocks-destruction-after-trump-cuts-2025-07-16/>

⁵ <https://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2025/07/usaids-emergency-food-incinerate-trump/683532/>

4) The adequacy of the State Department's internal controls, monitoring and evaluation systems, and partner oversight mechanisms with respect to the expenditure of humanitarian and development assistance.

If your office requires additional authorities or resources to conduct this review, please advise us accordingly. Thank you for your continued service and commitment to safeguarding the integrity of U.S. foreign assistance. We look forward to your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gregory W. Meeks", with a stylized flourish above the name.

GREGORY W. MEEKS
Ranking Member

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gabe Amo", with a stylized flourish above the name.

GABE AMO
Vice Ranking Member