



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

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August 7, 2009

The Honorable Jacob Walles
Consul General of the United States of America
Jerusalem, Israel

Dear Mr. Walles:

A number of my constituents have contacted me to express concern regarding the content of the website of our consulate general in Jerusalem, Israel. As you know, the Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995 (P.L. 104-45) states that it is the policy of the United States that "Jerusalem should be recognized as the capital of the State of Israel." The President reinforced this policy when he stated last year that "Jerusalem will remain the capital of Israel, and it must remain undivided."

However, one who visits our consulate general's English-language website would find very few references to Israel or Israelis, in contrast with many references to the Palestinian Authority, Palestinians, the West Bank, and Gaza. The website also has an Arabic-language version but none in Hebrew, even though the majority of Jerusalem's residents are Israeli citizens and Hebrew-speakers. Such tendencies and omissions could be construed to reflect bias against Israel within the consulate general itself.

I would greatly appreciate if you could address and resolve these concerns.
Thank you in advance for your assistance with this request.

Sincerely,

ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN
Member of Congress