

(From:) Parliament
Committee on Scrutiny and Constitutional Affairs
Date: 02.04.2013 Our ref.:
Your Date: Your ref.:

(To:) Foreign Minister Espen Barth Eide, Ministry of Foreign Affairs...

Re.: The [Norwegian] Foreign Ministry's financial contributions to the Palestinian Authority

The Committee on Scrutiny and Constitutional Affairs refers to the letter of March 19, 2013 and to previous correspondence on the matter.

The Committee would like to know which other investigations and quality control of information [received] from the PA, the Foreign Ministry performed before [it] received the information from the Norwegian Representative Office [in the PA] on Sept. 5, 2011.

PMW note: The Committee's reference to the date Sept. 5, 2011, refers to the day the PA supplied incorrect information to the Norwegian Representative Office.

In his letter to the Committee of March 11, 2013, the Norwegian Foreign Minister, Espen Barth Eide, called the information supplied by the PA "imprecise." In an interview on Norwegian state-owned TV, NRK, he stated that it was "very unfortunate" that Norway had received "insufficient information... from the PA." In his second letter, of March 19, 2013, he stated that:

"Information that the Norwegian Representative Office [in the PA] obtained from the PA Finance Ministry on Sept. 5, 2011 showed that the support program was the same for Palestinian prisoners in both Palestinian and Israeli prisons. In February 2013, it became apparent that prisoners in Palestinian jails are not included in the same program, but that their families only receive ordinary social support. In other words, the PA has a special [support] program for Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails."

The Minister continued that "the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has... made it clear to the PA that we find aspects of the support program problematic."

[The Ministry] is also asked to inform [the Committee] when the Committee can expect an answer [from the Foreign Ministry] with additional information, in reference to a previous letter [in which the Foreign Minister] stated that the Foreign Ministry has requested a further explanation from the PA.

Kind regards,
The Committee on Scrutiny and Constitutional Affairs

Anders Anundsen,
Head of Committee