

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

MEMBER/OFFICER POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM Original Amendment

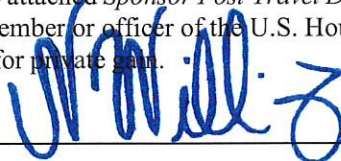
This form is for disclosing the receipt of travel expenses from a private source for travel taken in connection with a Member or officer's official duties. This form does not eliminate the need to report privately-funded travel on the Member or officer's annual *Financial Disclosure Statement*. In accordance with House Rule 25, clause 5, **you must complete this form and file it with the Clerk of the House by email at ethics@clerk.house.gov, within 15 days after travel is completed.** Please **do not** file this form with the Committee on Ethics.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

1. Name of Traveler: Nikema Williams
2. a. Name of Accompanying Relative: Leslie Small **OR** None
b. Relationship to Traveler: Spouse Child Other (specify): _____
3. a. Dates: Departure: 9/1/2023 Return: 9/10/2023
b. Dates at Personal Expense, if any: _____ **OR** None
4. Departure City: Queens, NY (JFK) Destination: Jerusalem, Israel Return City: Queens, NY
5. Sponsor(s), Who Paid for the Trip: _____
6. Describe Meetings and Events Attended (attach additional pages if necessary):
Strategic Regional Overview meeting w/ Lt. Col. (Res.) Jonathan Conricus, Former Int'l Spokesperson of the Israel Defense Forces; Meeting with Prime Minister Netanyahu; Israel – Africa Partnership meetings: Ambassador Ron Adam, Past Israeli Ambassador to Rwanda, Ambassador Sharon Bar – Li, Deputy Director General, Head of Africa Desk, MOFA, Benjy Krasna, Senior
7. Attached to this form are **each** of the following, *signify that each item is attached by checking the corresponding box*:
 - a. a completed *Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form*;
 - b. the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* completed by the trip sponsor **prior** to the trip, **including all** attachments **and** the *Additional Sponsor Form(s)*;
 - c. page 2 of the completed *Traveler Form* submitted by the Member or officer; **and**
 - d. the letter from the Committee on Ethics approving my participation on this trip.
8. a. I represent that I participated in each of the activities reflected in the attached sponsor's agenda. *Signify statement is true by checking the box.*
b. If not, explain: _____

I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge. I have determined that all of the expenses on the attached *Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form* were necessary and that the travel was in connection with my duties as a Member or officer of the U.S. House of Representatives and would not create the appearance that I am using public office for private gain.

Member / Officer Signature: _____



Date: 9/25/2023

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

SPONSOR POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM

Original Amendment

This form must be completed by an officer of any organization that served as the primary trip sponsor in providing travel expenses or reimbursement for travel expenses to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. **A completed copy of the form must be provided to each House Member, officer, or employee who participated in the trip within 10 days of their return.** You must answer all questions, and check all boxes, on this form for your submission to comply with House Rules and the Committee's Travel Regulations. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in the denial of future requests to sponsor trips and/or subject the current traveler to disciplinary action or a requirement to repay the trip expenses.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

1. Sponsor(s) who paid or provided in-kind support for the trip: _____
American Israel Education Foundation, Inc. (AIEF)

2. Travel Destination(s): Israel, Rwanda

3. Date of Departure: September 1, 2023 Date of Return: September 10, 2023

4. Name(s) of Traveler(s): Representative Nikema Williams

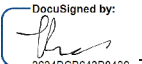
Note: You may list more than one traveler on a form only if **all** information is **identical** for each person listed.

5. **Actual amount** of expenses paid on behalf of, or reimbursed to, each individual named in Question 4:

	Total Transportation Expenses	Total Lodging Expenses	Total Meal Expenses	Total Other Expenses (dollar amount per item and description)
Traveler	\$17,810.21	\$1,911.70	\$1,430.13	\$4,651.21
Accompanying Family Member	\$17,810.21	\$1,911.70	\$1,430.13	\$4,651.21

6. All expenses connected to the trip were for actual costs incurred and not a *per diem* or lump sum payment.
Signify statement is true by checking box.

I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature:  _____ Date: 9/21/2023 | 18:03 EDT

Name: Rachel Hirsch Title: Chief Legal Counsel

Organization: American Israel Education Foundation, Inc. (AIEF)

I am an officer of the above-named organization. Signify statement is true by checking box.

Address: 251 H Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20001

Telephone: (202) 246-0519 Email: rhirsch@aiefdn.org

Committee staff may contact the above-named individual if additional information is required.

If you have questions regarding your completion of this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103.

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

PRIMARY TRIP SPONSOR FORM

This form should be completed by private entities offering to provide travel or reimbursement for travel to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. A completed copy of the form (and any attachments) should be provided to each invited House Member, officer, or employee, who will then forward it to the Committee together with a *Traveler Form* **at least 30 days before the start date of the trip**. The trip sponsor should *NOT* submit the form directly to the Committee. The Committee's website (ethics.house.gov) provides detailed instructions for filling out the form. The Committee will notify the House invitees directly of its decision and will not notify the trip sponsors.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001. Failure to comply with the Committee's Travel Regulations may also lead to the denial of permission to sponsor future trips. Signatures must comply with section 104(bb) of the Travel Regulations.

1. Sponsor who will be paying for the trip:
American Israel Education Foundation Inc. (AIEF)
2. I represent that the trip will not be financed, in whole or in part, by a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent. *Signify that the statement is true by checking box.*
3. **Check only one.** I represent that:
 - a. The primary trip sponsor has not accepted from any other source, funds intended directly or indirectly to finance any aspect of the trip; **OR**
 - b. The trip is arranged without regard to congressional participation and the primary trip sponsor has accepted funds only from entities that will receive a tangible benefit in exchange for those funds; **OR**
 - c. The primary trip sponsor has accepted funds, services, or in-kind assistance from other source(s) intended directly or indirectly to finance all or part of this trip and has enclosed disclosure forms from each of those entities.
If "c" is checked, list the names of the additional sponsors: _____
4. Provide names and titles of **ALL** House Members *and* employees you are inviting. **For each House invitee, provide an explanation of why the individual was invited** (include additional pages if necessary): _____
Please find attached _____
5. Yes No Is travel being offered to an accompanying family member of the House invitee(s)?
6. Date of Departure: September 1, 2023 Date of Return: September 10, 2023
7. a. City of departure: Washington, D.C. or home district
b. Destination(s): Israel, Rwanda
c. City of return: Washington, D.C. or home district
8. **Check only one.** I represent that
 - a. The sponsor of the trip is an institution of higher education within the meaning of section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965; **OR**
 - b. The sponsor of the trip does not retain or employ a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent; **OR**
 - c. The sponsor employs or retains a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent, but the trip is for attendance at a one-day event *and* lobbyist / foreign agent involvement in planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip was *de minimis* under the Committee's travel regulations.

9. **Check only one of the following.**
- a. I checked 8(a) or (b) above; **OR**
 - b. I checked 8(c) above but am not offering any lodging; **OR**
 - c. I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for one night; **OR**
 - d. I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for two nights. If you checked this box, explain why the second night of lodging is warranted. _____

10. Attached is a detailed agenda of the activities House invitees will be participating in during the travel (i.e., an hourly description of planned activities for trip invitees). *Indicate agenda is attached by checking box.*

11. **Check only one of the following.**
- a. I represent that a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent will not accompany House Members or employees on any segment of the trip. *Signify the statement is true by clicking the box; OR*
 - b. *Not Applicable.* Trip sponsor is a U.S. institution of higher education.

12. For **each** sponsor required to submit a sponsor form, describe the sponsor's interest in the subject matter of the trip **and** its role in organizing and/or conducting the trip:
 AIEF is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization with the fundamental purpose of educating policy makers and opinion leaders about the U.S.-Israel relationship. AIEF is solely responsible for recruiting, coordinating, executing, and funding all aspects of this trip.

13. **Answer parts a and b. Answer part c if necessary:**
- a. Mode of travel: Air Rail Bus Car Other (specify: _____)
 - b. Class of travel: Coach Business First Charter Other (specify: _____)
 - c. If travel will be first class, or by chartered or private aircraft, explain why such travel is warranted:
 Please find attached request for charter flights.

14. I represent that the expenditures related to local area travel during the trip will be unrelated to personal or recreational activities of the invitee(s). *Signify that the statement is true by checking box.*

15. **Check only one.** I represent that either:
- a. The trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *without regard* to congressional participation and that meals provided to congressional participants are similar to those provided to or purchased by other event attendees; **OR**
 - b. The trip involves events that are arranged specifically *with regard* to congressional participation. If "b" is checked:
 - 1) Detail the cost *per day* of meals (approximate cost may be provided): _____
 \$129
 - 2) Provide the reason for selecting the location of the event or trip: The trip will take place in Israel and Rwanda to educate members about the relationship between the two countries.

16. Name, nightly cost, and reasons for selecting each hotel or other lodging facility:

Hotel Name:	<u>King David</u>	City:	<u>Jerusalem</u>	Cost Per Night:	<u>\$425</u>
Reason(s) for Selecting:	<u>location and affordability</u>				
Hotel Name:	<u>Marriott</u>	City:	<u>Kigali</u>	Cost Per Night:	<u>\$503.70</u>
Reason(s) for Selecting:	<u>location and affordability</u>				
Hotel Name:	_____	City:	_____	Cost Per Night:	_____
Reason(s) for Selecting:	_____				

17. I represent that all expenses connected to the trip will be for actual costs incurred and not a per diem or lump sum payment. *Signify that the statement is true by checking the box.*

18. **Total Expenses for each Participant:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Actual Amounts <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good Faith Estimates	Total Transportation Expenses per Participant	Total Lodging Expenses per Participant	Total Meal Expenses per Participant
For each Member, Officer, or Employee	\$18,748	\$1,644.90	\$1,032
For each Accompanying Family Member	\$18,748	\$1,644.90	\$1,032

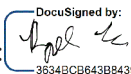
	Other Expenses (dollar amount per item)	Identify Specific Nature of "Other" Expenses (e.g., taxi, parking, registration fee, etc.)
For each Member, Officer, or Employee	\$5,853.52	please find breakdown attached
For each Accompanying Family Member	\$5,853.52	please find breakdown attached

19. **Check only one:**

- a. I certify that I am an officer of the organization listed below; **OR**
- b. *Not Applicable.* Trip sponsor is an individual or a U.S. institution of higher education.

20. **I certify by my signature that**

- a. **I read and understand the Committee's Travel Regulations;**
- b. **I am not a registered federal lobbyist or registered foreign agent; and**
- c. **The information on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.**

Signature:  _____ Date: 7/31/2023 | 10:47 EDT
 Name: Rachel Hirsch Title: Chief Legal Counsel
 Organization: American Israel Education Foundation, Inc. (AIEF)
 Address: 251 H Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20001
 Email: rhirsch@aiefdn.org Telephone: (202) 246-0519

If there are questions regarding this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103 or travel.requests@mail.house.gov.

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

TRAVELER FORM

This form should be completed by House Members, officers, or employees seeking Committee approval of privately-sponsored travel or reimbursement for travel under House Rule 25, clause 5. The completed form should be submitted directly to the Committee by each invited House Member, officer, or employee, together with the completed and signed trip sponsor form(s) and any attachments. A copy of this form, minus this initial page, will be made available for public inspection.

This form and any attachments may be submitted at 1015 Longworth House Office Building or travel.requests@mail.house.gov.

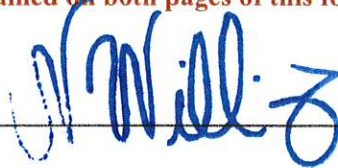
Your completed request must be submitted to the Committee no less than 30 days before your proposed departure date. Absent exceptional circumstances, permission will not be granted for requests received less than 30 days before the trip commences. **You must receive explicit approval from the Committee before you depart on this trip.**

Name of Traveler: Nikema Williams

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

I certify that the information contained on both pages of this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: _____



Name of Signatory (if other than traveler): _____

For Staff (name of employing Member or Committee): _____

Office Address: 1406 LHOB

Telephone Number: 2026642337

Email Address of Contact Person: Melanee.Farrah@mail.house.gov

Check this box if the sponsoring entity is a media outlet, the purpose of the trip is to make a media appearance sponsored by that entity, and these forms are being submitted to the Committee less than 30 days before the trip departure date.

NOTE: You must complete all of the contact information fields above, as Committee staff may need to contact you if additional information is required.

KEEP A COPY OF THIS FORM. Page 2 (but not this page) must be submitted to the Clerk as part of the post-travel disclosure required by House Rule 25. Travel Regulation § 404(d) also requires you to keep a copy of all request forms and supporting paperwork for three subsequent Congresses from the date of travel.

If there are any questions regarding this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103 or via email: travel.requests@mail.house.gov.

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

TRAVELER FORM

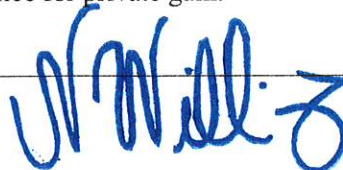
1. Name of Traveler: Nikema Williams
2. Sponsor(s) who will be paying or providing in-kind support for the trip: American Israel Education Foundation
3. City and State **OR** Foreign Country of Travel: Rwanda, Israel
4. a. Date of Departure: 9/1/2023 Date of Return: 9/10/2023
b. Yes No Will you be extending the trip at your personal expense?
If yes, list dates at personal expense: _____
5. a. Yes No Will you be accompanied by a family member at the sponsor's expense? **If yes:**
 - (1) Name of Accompanying Family Member: Leslie Small
 - (2) Relationship to Traveler: Spouse Child Other (specify): _____
 - (3) Yes No Accompanying Family Member is at least 18 years of age?
6. a. Yes No Did the trip sponsor answer "Yes" to Question 8(c) on the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* (i.e., travel is sponsored by an entity that employs a registered federal lobbyist or a foreign agent)?
b. **If yes**, and you are requesting lodging for two nights, explain why the second night is warranted:

7. Yes No *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* is attached, including agenda, invitation, invitee list, and any other attachments and Additional Sponsor Forms.
NOTE: The agenda should show the traveler's individual schedule, including departure and arrival times and identify the specific events in which the traveler will be participating.
8. Explain why participation in the trip is connected to the traveler's individual official or representational duties. **Staff should include their job title and how the activities on the itinerary relate to their duties.**
As a member of Congress I will be making this trip to learn more about the dynamics of the U.S.-Israel relationship. This will also support my work as a House-Knesset Parliamentary Friendship Group, where we will work with our Israeli counterparts on the special relationship between our two nations; anchored in shared democratic values and strategic interests.
9. **Yes No Is the traveler aware of any registered federal lobbyists or foreign agents involved in planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip?**
10. For staff travelers, to be completed by your employing Member:

ADVANCED AUTHORIZATION OF EMPLOYEE TRAVEL

I hereby authorize the individual named above, an employee of the U.S. House of Representatives who works under my direct supervision, to accept expenses for the trip described in this request. I have determined that the above-described travel is in connection with my employee's official duties and that acceptance of these expenses will not create the appearance that the employee is using public office for private gain.

Signature of Employing Member: _____



Date: 8/1/2023

Michael Guest, Mississippi
Chairman
Susan Wild, Pennsylvania
Ranking Member

David P. Joyce, Ohio
John H. Rutherford, Florida
Andrew R. Garbarino, New York
Michelle Fischbach, Minnesota

Veronica Escobar, Texas
Mark DeSaulnier, California
Deborah K. Ross, North Carolina
Glenn F. Ivey, Maryland



ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

Thomas A. Rust
Staff Director and Chief Counsel

Keelie Broom
Counsel to the Chairman

David Arrojo
Counsel to the Ranking Member

1015 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-6328
Telephone: (202) 225-7103
Facsimile: (202) 225-7392

August 25, 2023

The Honorable Nikema Williams
U.S. House of Representatives
1406 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Colleague:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your and your spouse's proposed trip to Israel, Rwanda,¹ scheduled for September 1 to 10, 2023, sponsored by American Israel Education Foundation.

Committee travel regulations require that you submit your complete pre-trip approval request to the Committee at least 30 days before the commencement of the trip or it will not be granted. Despite your failure to do so in this instance, we are approving your current request. However, any future requests should adhere to the 30-day requirement.

You must complete a Member/Officer Post-Travel Disclosure Form and file it, together with a Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form completed by the trip sponsor, with the Clerk of the House within 15 days after your return from travel. As part of that filing, you are also required to attach a copy of this letter and both the Traveler and Primary Trip Sponsor Forms (including attachments) you previously submitted to the Committee in seeking pre-approval for this trip. You must also report all travel expenses totaling more than \$480 from a single source on the "Travel" schedule of your annual Financial Disclosure Statement covering this calendar year. Finally, Travel Regulation § 404(d) also requires you to keep a copy of all request forms and supporting information provided to the Committee for three subsequent Congresses from the date of travel.

Because the trip may involve meetings with foreign government representatives, we note that House Members may accept, under the Foreign Gifts and Decorations Act (FGDA), gifts "of minimal value [currently \$480] tendered as a souvenir or mark of courtesy" by a foreign government. Any tangible gifts valued in excess of minimal value received from a foreign government must, within 60 days of acceptance, be disclosed on a Form for Disclosing Gifts from Foreign Governments and either turned over to the Clerk of the House, or, with the written approval of the Committee, retained for official use.

¹ Please be aware that the Committee's review of the proposed trip does not extend to either the security situation in the destination country or security related to foreign travel in general. We recommend you contact the Office of House Security (OHS) for a safety and security briefing prior to your departure. OHS may be reached at (202) 226-2044 or ohsstaff@mail.house.gov. House travelers should also register for the U.S. State Department's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program at <https://step.state.gov>.

If you have any further questions, please contact the Committee's Office of Advice and Education at extension 5-7103.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael Guest". The first letter "M" is large and loops around the start of the name.

Michael Guest
Chairman

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Susan Wild". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Susan Wild
Ranking Member

MG/SW:mc

**American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)
Mission to Israel and Rwanda
September 1-10, 2023**

Addendum

4. Names of Travelers

1. The Honorable Alma Adams (North Carolina)
2. The Honorable Joyce Beatty (Ohio)
3. The Honorable Troy Carter (Louisiana)
4. The Honorable Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick (Florida)
5. The Honorable Valerie Foushee (North Carolina)
6. The Honorable Glenn Ivey (Maryland)
7. The Honorable Jonathan Jackson (Illinois)
8. The Honorable Lucy McBath (Georgia)
9. The Honorable Ritchie Torres (New York)
10. The Honorable Nikema Williams (Georgia)

5. Breakdown of "other" costs

Other Cost	Cost per person
Security	\$1,872.67
Airport Assistance	\$907.75
Room Rentals and Setup	\$748.78
Speaker Fees	\$285.85
Tips	\$210.71
Misc.	\$204.33
Entrance Fees	\$138.10
Hotels for contract staff	\$127.55
Meals for contract staff and guests	\$68.39
Photography	\$37.27
Tour Guides	\$34.71
Transportation for contract staff & guests	\$15.09
Total =	\$4,651.21

**American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)
Mission to Israel and Rwanda
September 1-10, 2023**

Itinerary

Friday, September 1, 2023

Washington D.C. - Israel

10:55 PM United 90 departs Newark Airport

11:55 PM Delta 234 departs JFK

Saturday, September 2, 2023

Jerusalem, Israel

4:20 PM United 90 arrives at Ben Gurion Airport

5:35 PM Delta 234 arrives at Ben Gurion Airport

5:00 – 7:00 PM Transfer to Jerusalem
Check in to the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

8:15 PM Depart

8:30-10:00 PM **Welcome to Jerusalem**
Welcome and orientation with AIEF staff
-at Touro

10:00 PM Overnight at King David Hotel, Jerusalem

Sunday, September 3, 2023

Jerusalem, Israel

7:30 – 8:00 AM Breakfast and overview of the day
-at the King David Hotel

8:00 AM Depart for Old City

8:30-10:30 AM

Strategic Overview of Jerusalem

- Western Wall
- Church of the Holy Sepulchre
- City of David

The Old City of Jerusalem is home to the holiest shrines of the three monotheistic religions, including the Temple Mount, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, and the Al-Aqsa Mosque. The Holy Basin is the historic location of Jerusalem and refers to the land surrounding the Old City, including the Mount of Olives, believed to be the departure point for Jesus' final entry into Jerusalem and the cemetery where Jews have been burying their dead for 2,500 years. The Holy Basin also includes the Western Wall, Judaism's holiest site, and the Temple Mount (Haram al-Sharif), sacred ground for Jews, Muslims, and Christians. Control over these sensitive areas remains among the largest disputes in the Middle East. The professionally guided survey will walk through all of these sites and others, educating trip participants on their historical impact and their role in today's political discussions.

Jerusalem's City of David, more than any other site, represents the complexity of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The City of David is the site most archeologists agree to be the ancient city of Jerusalem that later became the capital of the united Israelite tribes under King David. This area is one of the most intensively excavated sites in the wider region. To Jewish Israelis, the site represents the beginning of their physical and emotional attachment to Jerusalem that has continued for over three thousand years. At the same time, much of the site is located in the predominantly Arab neighborhood of Silwan. The residents of Silwan, and the Palestinian Authority leadership are opposed to the archeological efforts being carried out in the City of David. In several instances, homes in Silwan were purchased and then destroyed to open up more areas for excavations. Palestinian leadership has denied the existence of any Jewish connection to Jerusalem.

10:30 PM

Depart

11:00 AM–12:00 PM

Israel on the International Stage

Dinner with Dr. Tal Becker

Senior Legal Advisor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

-at Mamilla

Since Israel's founding, the Jewish state has sought to reach a just and lasting solution to the Israeli Palestinian conflict. The United States has been closely involved in negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians. Dr. Tal Becker is a senior member of the Israeli peace negotiation team. In this position, he is on the front lines of many of Israel's most pressing diplomatic, legal and policy challenges. He is a veteran negotiator, and key behind the scenes representative, for Israel in a wide variety of contexts. During this session, he will discuss Israel and the international community, and the prospects for peace with Israel's neighbors in the current political climate.

12:00-1:15 PM

Strategic Regional Overview

Lunch with Brig. Gen. (Res.) Nitzan Nuriel
-at Mamilla

In order to understand the strategic threats facing Israel, participants must understand the unique situation facing Israel at the borders with the Gaza Strip, Lebanon, and Syria, all Iranian proxies. This briefing will provide an overview of each border, as well as the malign activity from Iran contributing to unrest in the region. The speaker will also provide a regional overview of Israel as the bridge from Africa to Asia, and the complex challenges facing the African continent.

1:30 PM

Depart for the Prime Minister's Office

2:00 PM

Security check

2:30 – 3:30 PM

Meeting with the Honorable Benjamin Netanyahu

Prime Minister of Israel
-at the Prime Minister's office

It is customary for members of Congress to meet with Israel's Prime Minister, to hear the official perspective of the State of Israel on issues impacting the U.S.-Israel relationship. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is the Chairman of the Likud party. He previously served as Israel's Prime Minister for 12 years, ending in June 2021. He is Israel's longest serving Prime Minister.

3:30 PM

Depart

4:00 PM

Arrival at Foreign Ministry, security check

4:30-5:15 PM

Meeting with the Honorable Eli Cohen

Minister of Foreign Affairs
-at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The Minister will give an overview of Israel's role on the global stage, including risks and opportunities. He will also provide a briefing on Israel's role in Africa, including historical context and contemporary goals. This will be an opportunity for the Members to gain an understanding of the strategic nature of the connection, also in context of the trilateral relationship with the United States.

5:15-6:30 PM

The Israel – Africa Partnership

Meeting with:

- Ambassador Sharon Bar – Li, Deputy Director General, Head of Africa Desk, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Ambassador Einat Schlein, Head of MASHAV, Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation

-at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

international community. This museum provides an important reference point as to how Israelis interpret the threat of an Iranian nuclear program and Iranian leaders committed to Israel's destruction. Yad Vashem has become a symbol of the Jewish people and its transformation from total helplessness to self-reliance and strength. Thus, a visit to Yad Vashem provides a historical context for the Jewish state. The museum's professional docent will guide the delegation through the main exhibit hall and the children's memorial.

10:15 AM	Depart for hotel
11:00-11:45 AM	A View of the Opposition Meeting with the Honorable Yair Lapid Leader of the Opposition -at the King David Hotel

Yair Lapid is an Israeli politician and former journalist who is the Chairman of the centrist Yesh Atid party, and Leader of the Opposition since January 2023. Previously he served as the 14th prime minister of Israel, the alternate prime minister of Israel and minister of Foreign Affairs from 2021 to 2022.

12:00 PM	Depart
12:30 – 1:15 PM	Lunch -at Pop Up Café
1:30 PM	Depart
3:30 – 4:30 PM	The Village Way, Part I Visit to Yemin Orde Youth Village

The Village Way methodology was initially created by educational visionary Chaim Peri at Yemin Orde Wingate Youth Village to provide an exemplary model for socializing, educating, and housing children who are at-risk. Yemin Orde is home to hundreds of immigrant, disadvantaged, and at-risk children and youth from 20 countries around the world. Located just south of Haifa in the Carmel Mountains, Yemin Orde is both a home and school environment. For most of its children, Yemin Orde is the only home they have in Israel.

Founded in 1953, Yemin Orde's first residents were a few dozen Holocaust orphans. Over the years, the Village has welcomed refugees and immigrants from Iran, North Africa, India, Yemen and Eastern Europe. Today, most of the children hail from places such as the Former Soviet Union, Ethiopia, and Brazil. Yemin Orde has helped some of Israel's most marginalized teenagers become accomplished students and value driven professionals. The Village Way approach is implemented at Rwanda's Agahozo-Shalom Youth Village, which participants will visit later in the program.

4:30 PM Depart

5:00 PM **The Israeli Mosaic**

Coffee with:

- Ibrahim Abu-Ahmed, Arab-Israeli Activist and Columnist
 - Moshe Friedman, Founder, KamaTech
 - Israela Tadela Baruch, Tzahai Project
- at Elma hotel

The Israeli Mosaic will be a discussion with Israelis representing some of the various societal sectors – all integral parts of the fabric of Israeli society and broader identity. The evening will be an opportunity to gain insight into the Israeli population as a whole, what governs the perspective and decisions of various sectors and to explore how each of the sectors represented fits into Israeli society and informs the collective national narrative.

6:15 PM Depart

8:00 – 10:00 PM **Start Up Nation**

- Yossi Abramowitz, Energiya Globa
 - Wendy Singer, Zzapp
- at Eucalyptus

Israel is a giant when it comes to innovation: a global leader in R&D spending and Venture Capital investment, and home to global R&D centers for the likes of Google, Apple and IBM. During this session, the speakers will share two unique Israeli projects working in Rwanda to develop and manage solar fields, and to eradicate malaria.

10:00 PM Overnight at the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

Tuesday, September 5, 2023

Jerusalem, Israel – Kigali, Rwanda

7:30 AM Breakfast and overview of the day
-at hotel

8:00 AM Depart for the Gaza envelope

8:30 – 9:30 AM **Gaza: A Situational Analysis** (briefing en route)

This en route briefing will provide an overview of the border between the Gaza Strip and Israel. The guides will cover Israel's unilateral disengagement from Gaza in 2005, and Israel's efforts to deal with the onslaught of rockets from the terrorist group Hamas, in control of the Gaza Strip

since 2007. They will also discuss the humanitarian situation in Gaza and Israel's efforts to improve it.

9:45 AM Arrive at Netiv Ha'asara

10:00 – 10:45 AM **Israel's Southern Border Threats**
Briefing with with Col. (ret.) Miri Eisin
Incoming Director of International Institute for Counter-Terrorism (ICT), Reichman University
-at Netiv Ha'asara

Participants will visit the border between Israel and the Gaza Strip, and learn about the unique challenges faced by this area. Since 2001, Israeli communities bordering the Gaza Strip have been living under the threat of rocket fire. Since the Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip in 2005 and the Hamas takeover of the Gaza Strip in 2007, the volume, range and accuracy of the rockets has only increased. More recently, Hamas has built dozens of terror tunnels to attack Israeli civilians. The delegation will meet with local residents to better understand the reality of living kilometers from Israel's border with Gaza, and how communities have sought to cope, both physically and psychologically.

10:45 – 11:15 AM **Visit to the Peace Wall**

The Peace Wall is a collaborative mosaic creation that can be viewed on both sides of the wall as a message of hope for all residents of the Gaza Strip and Israel's southern border. The mosaics are placed upon the border wall that divides the Gaza Strip and Israel, adjacent to the homes of Moshav Netiv HaAsara.

11:15 AM Depart

11:30 AM **U.S.-Israel Missile Defense Cooperation**
Visit to an Iron Dome battery
-at Ibim/Gevim

More than a decade ago, Israel developed Iron Dome to protect its citizens from persistent and increasingly dangerous rockets fired by Iranian-backed terrorists. Since being deployed, Iron Dome has intercepted more than 90 percent of the rockets it has targeted—preventing war, saving countless lives, and reducing physical and psychological damage. Leaders in Congress have recognized the importance of Israel's missile defense system and have allocated more than \$1.6 billion for this technology. Participants will have the opportunity to visit an Iron Dome site and speak with the soldiers responsible for its operation.

12:00 PM Depart for the airport

1:30 PM	Lunch -at the Fattal Terminal, Ben Gurion Airport
3:00 PM	VICTOR charter flight departs Ben Gurion Airport Dinner served
8:10 PM	VICTOR charter flight arrives at Kigali Airport
8:40 PM	Transfer to Kigali Marriott Hotel, Kigali
9:00 PM	Overnight at the Kigali Marriott Hotel, Kigali

Wednesday, September 6, 2023

Kigali, Rwanda

9:00 – 10:00 AM	Welcome to Kigali Welcome and orientation with AIEF staff -at the Kigali Marriott Hotel
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10:00 AM	Depart
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10:30 AM – 11:30 AM	Meeting with the Honorable Paul Kagame President of Rwanda
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The delegation will meet with His Excellency Paul Kagame, a former military officer who serves as the fourth and current president of Rwanda since 2000.

11:30 AM – 12:30 PM	Meeting with the Honorable Vincent Biruta Minister of Foreign Affairs, Rwanda
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The delegation will meet with His Excellency Vincent Biruta, a Rwandan physician appointed in 2019 to serve as the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

12:30 PM	Depart
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12:45 – 1:30 PM	Lunch -at Brachetto Kigali
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1:30 PM	Depart
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2:00 – 3:00 PM	Meeting with Rt. Hon Ngirente Edouard Prime Minister of Rwanda
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The delegation will meet with Rt. Hon. Edouard Ngirente, who has served as the 11th Prime Minister of the Republic of Rwanda since 2017.

3:15 PM Depart

4:00 – 6:00 PM **Kigali Genocide Memorial**
Visit to the Museum and Memorial

The Kigali Genocide Memorial includes three permanent exhibitions, the largest of which documents the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi. There is also a children’s memorial and an exhibition on the history of genocidal violence around the world. The education center, gardens, and Genocide Archive of Rwanda contribute to a meaningful tribute to those who perished, and provide a powerful educational experience for visitors.

6:00 PM Return to hotel, break

7:30 – 9:00 PM **Solving Global Challenges: Rwanda**
Dinner with Jonathan Kamin, Mission Director, USAID in Rwanda
-at Felini

Jonathan Kamin will share the history of the USAID Mission in Rwanda, the tremendous progress made in the country, and challenges and opportunities for Rwanda today. The mission was established in 1964, a few years after the establishment of USAID in 1961 and Rwanda’s establishment as an independent republic in the same year. The early decades of U.S. assistance focused on health, sanitation and rural development – with agriculture and nutrition programs at its core. As Rwanda’s largest bilateral donor, the United States has helped support the agriculture-led poverty reduction the country has seen over the past 15 years- from around 60% to around 40%. Rwanda has achieved remarkable declines in maternal and under-five mortality over the past decade, demonstrating the highest average annual rates of reduction among the 75 countries where more than 95 percent of maternal and child death occur. Rwanda has achieved remarkable success in increasing access to education, with primary school net enrollment standing at 97 percent. USAID/Rwanda’s current programs seek to build on these successes, and do so in four key areas: health, economic growth, education, and democracy and governance.

9:00 PM Overnight at the Kigali Marriott Hotel, Kigali

Thursday, September 7, 2023

Kigali, Rwanda

8:00 AM Breakfast on own
-at Soko, Kigali Marriott Hotel

9:00 AM Depart for U.S. Embassy

9:30 AM – 10:30 AM **Meeting with the Honorable Eric W. Kneedler**
U.S. Ambassador to Rwanda
-at the U.S. Embassy in Kigali

The delegation will meet with the newly appointed U.S. Ambassador to Rwanda.

10:30 AM Depart for Israeli Embassy

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM **Meeting with the Honorable Einat Weiss**
Israel’s Ambassador to Rwanda
-at the Embassy of Israel in Kigali

The delegation will meet with the newly appointed Israeli Ambassador to Rwanda. Over the past decade, the two countries have engaged in many cooperative projects, which seek to adapt Israel’s agricultural experience, technology, and innovation to local needs. Rwanda opened their Embassy in Tel Aviv in 2015; Israel opened their Embassy in Kigali in 2019.

12:30 – 1:30 PM Lunch
-at Lavana

1:30 PM Depart

2:00 – 4:00 PM **Bean to Cup: Female Farmers and Rwanda’s Coffee Renaissance**
-at Question Coffeehouse

Question Coffeehouse is powered by over 30,000 female Rwandan farmers providing a “bean to cup” experience. Since 2013, Bloomberg Philanthropies has invested in the innovative training of these coffee farmers and producers. During this session, the delegation will meet with coffee farmers, and learn how Rwanda’s world class coffee is grown, harvested, roasted, brewed and served.

4:00 – 6:00 PM **Amakuru Kigali**
Driving tour of Kigali

During this driving tour, the tour guides will share the history of Rwanda’s capital city, the country’s economic and cultural hub since it became the capital following independence from Belgian rule in 1962.

6:00 PM Return to hotel, break

7:30 – 9:00 PM

Start up Nation Africa

Dinner with Fred Swaniker, Entrepreneur and Educator
-at Nyurah

Fred Swaniker is a Ghanaian serial entrepreneur and leadership development expert, seeking to transform Africa with a new generation of leaders. He started the African Leadership Group – an ecosystem of organizations that are catalyzing a new era of ethical, entrepreneurial African leaders. Over the past 16 years, he has founded and led the pre-university African Leadership Academy based in South Africa, the African Leadership University with campuses in Mauritius and Rwanda, the African Leadership Network, ALX (a next-generation leadership development platform) and The Room (a global community of top talent). Collectively, these endeavours aim to transform Africa by developing 3 million African leaders by 2035.

9:00 PM

Overnight at the Kigali Marriott Hotel, Kigali

Friday, September 8, 2023

Kigali, Rwanda

8:00 AM

Breakfast on own
-at Soko, Kigali Marriott Hotel

9:30 AM

Depart

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

The Village Way, Part II

Visit to Agahozo-Shalom Youth Village
Discussion and Village tour with:

- Jean Claude Nkulikiyimfura, Director, Agahozo Shalom Youth Village
- Thomas Levy, Village Fellow

In 2005, while attending a talk about the Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda, Anne Heyman learned that the country had 1.2 million orphans. Without a systemic solution to support the well-being and development of Rwanda's vast orphan population, many were being left behind. Anne recognized that to address their orphan crisis following the Holocaust, Israel built residential communities that ensured the orphans' safety, security, and development. Anne was inspired to bring this model to Rwanda. From there, the Agahozo-Shalom Youth Village was founded.

12:00 – 1:00 PM

Lunch with Agahozo-Shalom students
-at the Agahozo-Shalom Youth Village

1:00 – 2:00 PM

Power Africa

Visit to SolarField

With Twaha Twagirimana, Plant Supervisor

This solar field at the Agahozo-Shalom Youth Village in Rwanda embraces a wide range of causes: it helps the long-term sustainability of the Village, it is good for the environment, it generates local employment and education and it empowers the country with access to electricity - which in itself results in a myriad of benefits for the Rwandan population. Located on rolling green hills, east of Kigali, this \$23 million project is the first utility-scale, grid-connected, commercial solar field in East Africa.

2:00 PM

Depart

3:00 – 4:30 PM

Visit to the Rwanda-Israel Horticulture Center of Excellence

The Rwanda-Israel Horticulture Center of Excellence was established by MASHAV, Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation, in Rwanda. This bilateral initiative was conceived in support of Rwanda's national plan to modernize its agricultural sector, to stimulate agricultural growth and alleviate rural poverty. The project is designed for all levels of the farming community, from small-holder to commercial-scale farmers, with special emphasis on building local capacities in agriculture and agricultural entrepreneurship.

4:30 PM

Depart

5:00 PM

Return to hotel, break

7:00 PM

Depart for dinner

7:30 – 9:30 PM

Closing Dinner

-at Choose Kigali

The closing dinner provides an opportunity for participants to process the scope of the week, from the religious center of the Judeo-Christian world in Jerusalem, to the dynamic, bustling capital city of Kigali, Rwanda. Participants will also have the opportunity to share their takeaways and ask any lingering questions that weren't covered during the week.

9:30 PM

Overnight at the Kigali Marriott Hotel, Kigali

Saturday, September 9, 2023

Kigali, Rwanda – Israel

8:00 – 9:15 AM

Breakfast on own

-at Soko, Kigali Marriott Hotel

9:30 – 11:30 AM **Visit to Nyamirambo Women’s Center (optional)**

The Nyamirambo Women’s center is a neighborhood coop and market founded and run by women in Kigali. During the visit the delegation will see the women working in traditional crafts including basket weaving and sewing.

12:00 PM Depart for the airport

12:30 PM VICTOR charter flight departs Kigali Airport
Lunch served

7:30 PM VICTOR charter flight arrives at Ben Gurion Airport

11:25 PM United 91 departs Ben Gurion Airport

11:55 PM Delta 235 departs Ben Gurion Airport

Sunday, September 10, 2023

4:20 AM United 91 arrives at Newark airport

5:05 AM Delta 235 arrives at JFK

**American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)
Mission to Israel and Rwanda
September 1-10, 2023**

Itinerary

Friday, September 1, 2023

Washington D.C. - Israel

10:55 PM United 90 departs Newark Airport

11:55 PM Delta 234 departs JFK

Saturday, September 2, 2023

Jerusalem, Israel

4:20 PM United 90 arrives at Ben Gurion Airport

5:35 PM Delta 234 arrives at Ben Gurion Airport

5:00 – 7:00 PM Transfer to Jerusalem
Check in to the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

8:15 PM Depart

8:30-10:00 PM **Welcome to Jerusalem**
Welcome and orientation with AIEF staff
-at Touro

10:00 PM Overnight at King David Hotel, Jerusalem

Sunday, September 3, 2023

Jerusalem, Israel

7:30 – 8:00 AM Breakfast and overview of the day
-at the King David Hotel

8:00 AM Depart for Old City

8:30-10:30 AM

Strategic Overview of Jerusalem

- Western Wall
- Church of the Holy Sepulchre
- City of David

The Old City of Jerusalem is home to the holiest shrines of the three monotheistic religions, including the Temple Mount, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, and the Al-Aqsa Mosque. The Holy Basin is the historic location of Jerusalem and refers to the land surrounding the Old City, including the Mount of Olives, believed to be the departure point for Jesus' final entry into Jerusalem and the cemetery where Jews have been burying their dead for 2,500 years. The Holy Basin also includes the Western Wall, Judaism's holiest site, and the Temple Mount (Haram al-Sharif), sacred ground for Jews, Muslims, and Christians. Control over these sensitive areas remains among the largest disputes in the Middle East. The professionally guided survey will walk through all of these sites and others, educating trip participants on their historical impact and their role in today's political discussions.

Jerusalem's City of David, more than any other site, represents the complexity of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The City of David is the site most archeologists agree to be the ancient city of Jerusalem that later became the capital of the united Israelite tribes under King David. This area is one of the most intensively excavated sites in the wider region. To Jewish Israelis, the site represents the beginning of their physical and emotional attachment to Jerusalem that has continued for over three thousand years. At the same time, much of the site is located in the predominantly Arab neighborhood of Silwan. The residents of Silwan, and the Palestinian Authority leadership are opposed to the archeological efforts being carried out in the City of David. In several instances, homes in Silwan were purchased and then destroyed to open up more areas for excavations. Palestinian leadership has denied the existence of any Jewish connection to Jerusalem.

10:30 PM

Depart

11:00 AM–12:00 PM

Israel on the International Stage

Dinner with Dr. Tal Becker

Senior Legal Advisor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

-at Mamilla

Since Israel's founding, the Jewish state has sought to reach a just and lasting solution to the Israeli Palestinian conflict. The United States has been closely involved in negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians. Dr. Tal Becker is a senior member of the Israeli peace negotiation team. In this position, he is on the front lines of many of Israel's most pressing diplomatic, legal and policy challenges. He is a veteran negotiator, and key behind the scenes representative, for Israel in a wide variety of contexts. During this session, he will discuss Israel and the international community, and the prospects for peace with Israel's neighbors in the current political climate.

12:00-1:15 PM

Strategic Regional Overview

Lunch with Brig. Gen. (Res.) Nitzan Nuriel
-at Mamilla

In order to understand the strategic threats facing Israel, participants must understand the unique situation facing Israel at the borders with the Gaza Strip, Lebanon, and Syria, all Iranian proxies. This briefing will provide an overview of each border, as well as the malign activity from Iran contributing to unrest in the region. The speaker will also provide a regional overview of Israel as the bridge from Africa to Asia, and the complex challenges facing the African continent.

1:30 PM

Depart for the Prime Minister's Office

2:00 PM

Security check

2:30 – 3:30 PM

Meeting with the Honorable Benjamin Netanyahu

Prime Minister of Israel
-at the Prime Minister's office

It is customary for members of Congress to meet with Israel's Prime Minister, to hear the official perspective of the State of Israel on issues impacting the U.S.-Israel relationship. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is the Chairman of the Likud party. He previously served as Israel's Prime Minister for 12 years, ending in June 2021. He is Israel's longest serving Prime Minister.

3:30 PM

Depart

4:00 PM

Arrival at Foreign Ministry, security check

4:30-5:15 PM

Meeting with the Honorable Eli Cohen

Minister of Foreign Affairs
-at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The Minister will give an overview of Israel's role on the global stage, including risks and opportunities. He will also provide a briefing on Israel's role in Africa, including historical context and contemporary goals. This will be an opportunity for the Members to gain an understanding of the strategic nature of the connection, also in context of the trilateral relationship with the United States.

5:15-6:30 PM

The Israel – Africa Partnership

Meeting with:

- Ambassador Sharon Bar – Li, Deputy Director General, Head of Africa Desk, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
 - Ambassador Einat Schlein, Head of MASHAV, Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation
- at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The senior professional staff of the Ministry will provide members with an in-depth briefing of the key elements to the Israel-Africa relationship, with a focus on Rwanda. Ambassador Bar-Li will discuss political/diplomatic matters including the changing nature of the region due to the Abraham Accords and the potential for more significant African relationships. Ambassador Schlein will cover Israel's role in providing humanitarian aid, including assistance with poverty alleviation, provision of food security, empowerment of women and upgrade of basic health and education services.

6:30 PM Return to hotel

7:30 – 9:30 PM **Solving Global Challenges**

Dinner with:

- Danielle Abraham, Executive Director, Volcani International Partnerships
 - Ido Gutin, Director of Resource Development, Save a Child's Heart
 - Dr. Gerard Misago, Pediatric Cardiology, Save A Child's Heart
 - Sivan Yaari, Founder and CEO, Innovation Africa
- at the King David hotel

One of the major tenets of Judaism is "Tikkun Olam", to "repair the world". This dinner will focus on representatives from organizations seeking to make the world a better place in various sectors, with a focus on Africa. This evening will be a dinner discussion with entrepreneurs representing Israeli innovation and ingenuity that has had enormous impact both in Israel and abroad. The delegation will be meeting with innovators that are global leaders in ag-tech, solar and water technology, and healthcare.

9:30 PM Overnight at the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

Monday, September 4, 2023

Jerusalem, Israel

7:30 AM Breakfast and overview of the day
--at the King David Hotel

8:00 AM Depart for Yad Vashem

8:30 – 10:15 AM **The Significance of the Holocaust in Israeli Society**
Visit to the Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum

One cannot understand Israel's worldview without understanding the trauma of the Holocaust. Israelis view threats to its destruction in light of the events of the 1930s and 1940s, when the German government's threats to exterminate the Jewish people were not taken seriously by the

international community. This museum provides an important reference point as to how Israelis interpret the threat of an Iranian nuclear program and Iranian leaders committed to Israel's destruction. Yad Vashem has become a symbol of the Jewish people and its transformation from total helplessness to self-reliance and strength. Thus, a visit to Yad Vashem provides a historical context for the Jewish state. The museum's professional docent will guide the delegation through the main exhibit hall and the children's memorial.

10:15 AM Depart for hotel

11:00-11:45 AM **A View of the Opposition**
Meeting with the Honorable Yair Lapid
Leader of the Opposition
-at the King David Hotel

Yair Lapid is an Israeli politician and former journalist who is the Chairman of the centrist Yesh Atid party, and Leader of the Opposition since January 2023. Previously he served as the 14th prime minister of Israel, the alternate prime minister of Israel and minister of Foreign Affairs from 2021 to 2022.

12:00 PM Depart

12:30 – 1:15 PM Lunch
-at Pop Up Café

1:30 PM Depart

3:30 – 4:30 PM **The Village Way, Part I**
Visit to Yemin Orde Youth Village

The Village Way methodology was initially created by educational visionary Chaim Peri at Yemin Orde Wingate Youth Village to provide an exemplary model for socializing, educating, and housing children who are at-risk. Yemin Orde is home to hundreds of immigrant, disadvantaged, and at-risk children and youth from 20 countries around the world. Located just south of Haifa in the Carmel Mountains, Yemin Orde is both a home and school environment. For most of its children, Yemin Orde is the only home they have in Israel.

Founded in 1953, Yemin Orde's first residents were a few dozen Holocaust orphans. Over the years, the Village has welcomed refugees and immigrants from Iran, North Africa, India, Yemen and Eastern Europe. Today, most of the children hail from places such as the Former Soviet Union, Ethiopia, and Brazil. Yemin Orde has helped some of Israel's most marginalized teenagers become accomplished students and value driven professionals. The Village Way approach is implemented at Rwanda's Agahozo-Shalom Youth Village, which participants will visit later in the program.

4:30 PM Depart

5:00 – 6:15 PM

The Israeli Mosaic

Coffee with:

- Ibrahim Abu-Ahmed, Arab-Israeli Activist and Columnist
 - Moshe Friedman, Founder, KamaTech
 - Israela Tadela Baruch, Tzahai Project
- at Elma hotel

The Israeli Mosaic will be a discussion with Israelis representing some of the various societal sectors – all integral parts of the fabric of Israeli society and broader identity. The evening will be an opportunity to gain insight into the Israeli population as a whole, what governs the perspective and decisions of various sectors and to explore how each of the sectors represented fits into Israeli society and informs the collective national narrative.

6:15 PM Depart

8:00 – 10:00 PM

Start Up Nation

- Yossi Abramowitz, Energiya Globa
 - Wendy Singer, Zzapp
- at Eucalyptus

Israel is a giant when it comes to innovation: a global leader in R&D spending and Venture Capital investment, and home to global R&D centers for the likes of Google, Apple and IBM. During this session, the speakers will share two unique Israeli projects working in Rwanda to develop and manage solar fields, and to eradicate malaria.

10:00 PM Overnight at the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

Tuesday, September 5, 2023

Jerusalem, Israel – Kigali, Rwanda

7:30 AM Breakfast and overview of the day
-at hotel

8:00 AM Depart for the Gaza envelope

8:30 – 9:30 AM **Gaza: A Situational Analysis** (briefing en route)

This en route briefing will provide an overview of the border between the Gaza Strip and Israel. The guides will cover Israel's unilateral disengagement from Gaza in 2005, and Israel's efforts to deal with the onslaught of rockets from the terrorist group Hamas, in control of the Gaza Strip

since 2007. They will also discuss the humanitarian situation in Gaza and Israel's efforts to improve it.

9:45 AM Arrive at Netiv Ha'asara

10:00 – 10:45 AM **Israel's Southern Border Threats**
Briefing with with Col. (ret.) Miri Eisin
Incoming Director of International Institute for Counter-Terrorism (ICT), Reichman University
-at Netiv Ha'asara

Participants will visit the border between Israel and the Gaza Strip, and learn about the unique challenges faced by this area. Since 2001, Israeli communities bordering the Gaza Strip have been living under the threat of rocket fire. Since the Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip in 2005 and the Hamas takeover of the Gaza Strip in 2007, the volume, range and accuracy of the rockets has only increased. More recently, Hamas has built dozens of terror tunnels to attack Israeli civilians. The delegation will meet with local residents to better understand the reality of living kilometers from Israel's border with Gaza, and how communities have sought to cope, both physically and psychologically.

10:45 – 11:15 AM **Visit to the Peace Wall**

The Peace Wall is a collaborative mosaic creation that can be viewed on both sides of the wall as a message of hope for all residents of the Gaza Strip and Israel's southern border. The mosaics are placed upon the border wall that divides the Gaza Strip and Israel, adjacent to the homes of Moshav Netiv HaAsara. Miri Eisen will continue her briefing at the peace wall, where she will discuss people to people connections between Israelis and Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.

11:15 AM Depart

11:30 AM – 12:00 PM **U.S.-Israel Missile Defense Cooperation**
Visit to an Iron Dome battery
-at Ibim/Gevim

More than a decade ago, Israel developed Iron Dome to protect its citizens from persistent and increasingly dangerous rockets fired by Iranian-backed terrorists. Since being deployed, Iron Dome has intercepted more than 90 percent of the rockets it has targeted—preventing war, saving countless lives, and reducing physical and psychological damage. Leaders in Congress have recognized the importance of Israel's missile defense system and have allocated more than \$1.6 billion for this technology. Participants will have the opportunity to visit an Iron Dome site and speak with the soldiers responsible for its operation.

12:00 PM Depart for the airport

1:30 PM	Lunch -at the Fattal Terminal, Ben Gurion Airport
3:00 PM	VICTOR charter flight departs Ben Gurion Airport Dinner served
8:10 PM	VICTOR charter flight arrives at Kigali Airport
8:40 PM	Transfer to Kigali Marriott Hotel, Kigali
9:00 PM	Overnight at the Kigali Marriott Hotel, Kigali

Wednesday, September 6, 2023

Kigali, Rwanda

9:00 – 10:00 AM	Welcome to Kigali Welcome and orientation with AIEF staff -at the Kigali Marriott Hotel
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10:00 AM	Depart
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10:30 AM – 11:30 AM	Meeting with the Honorable Paul Kagame President of Rwanda
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The delegation will meet with His Excellency Paul Kagame, a former military officer who serves as the fourth and current president of Rwanda since 2000.

11:30 AM – 12:30 PM	Meeting with the Honorable Vincent Biruta Minister of Foreign Affairs, Rwanda
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The delegation will meet with His Excellency Vincent Biruta, a Rwandan physician appointed in 2019 to serve as the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

12:30 PM	Depart
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12:45 – 1:30 PM	Lunch -at Brachetto Kigali
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1:30 PM	Depart
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2:00 – 3:00 PM	Meeting with Rt. Hon Ngirente Edouard Prime Minister of Rwanda
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The delegation will meet with Rt. Hon. Edouard Ngirente, who has served as the 11th Prime Minister of the Republic of Rwanda since 2017.

3:15 PM Depart

4:00 – 6:00 PM **Kigali Genocide Memorial**
Visit to the Museum and Memorial

The Kigali Genocide Memorial includes three permanent exhibitions, the largest of which documents the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi. There is also a children’s memorial and an exhibition on the history of genocidal violence around the world. The education center, gardens, and Genocide Archive of Rwanda contribute to a meaningful tribute to those who perished, and provide a powerful educational experience for visitors.

6:00 PM Return to hotel, break

7:30 – 9:00 PM **Solving Global Challenges: Rwanda**
Dinner with Jonathan Kamin, Mission Director, USAID in Rwanda
-at Felini

Jonathan Kamin will share the history of the USAID Mission in Rwanda, the tremendous progress made in the country, and challenges and opportunities for Rwanda today. The mission was established in 1964, a few years after the establishment of USAID in 1961 and Rwanda’s establishment as an independent republic in the same year. The early decades of U.S. assistance focused on health, sanitation and rural development – with agriculture and nutrition programs at its core. As Rwanda’s largest bilateral donor, the United States has helped support the agriculture-led poverty reduction the country has seen over the past 15 years- from around 60% to around 40%. Rwanda has achieved remarkable declines in maternal and under-five mortality over the past decade, demonstrating the highest average annual rates of reduction among the 75 countries where more than 95 percent of maternal and child death occur. Rwanda has achieved remarkable success in increasing access to education, with primary school net enrollment standing at 97 percent. USAID/Rwanda’s current programs seek to build on these successes, and do so in four key areas: health, economic growth, education, and democracy and governance.

9:00 PM Overnight at the Kigali Marriott Hotel, Kigali

Thursday, September 7, 2023

Kigali, Rwanda

8:00 AM Breakfast on own
-at Soko, Kigali Marriott Hotel

9:00 AM Depart for U.S. Embassy

9:30 AM – 10:30 AM **Meeting with the Honorable Eric W. Kneeder**
U.S. Ambassador to Rwanda
-at the U.S. Embassy in Kigali

The delegation will meet with the newly appointed U.S. Ambassador to Rwanda.

10:30 AM Depart for Israeli Embassy

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM **Meeting with the Honorable Einat Weiss**
Israel's Ambassador to Rwanda
-at the Embassy of Israel in Kigali

The delegation will meet with the newly appointed Israeli Ambassador to Rwanda. Over the past decade, the two countries have engaged in many cooperative projects, which seek to adapt Israel's agricultural experience, technology, and innovation to local needs. Rwanda opened their Embassy in Tel Aviv in 2015; Israel opened their Embassy in Kigali in 2019.

12:30 – 1:30 PM Lunch
-at Lavana

1:30 PM Depart

2:00 – 4:00 PM **Bean to Cup: Female Farmers and Rwanda's Coffee Renaissance**
-at Question Coffeehouse

Question Coffeehouse is powered by over 30,000 female Rwandan farmers providing a "bean to cup" experience. Since 2013, Bloomberg Philanthropies has invested in the innovative training of these coffee farmers and producers. During this session, the delegation will meet with coffee farmers, and learn how Rwanda's world class coffee is grown, harvested, roasted, brewed and served.

4:00 – 6:00 PM **Amakuru Kigali**
Driving tour of Kigali

During this driving tour, the tour guides will share the history of Rwanda's capital city, the country's economic and cultural hub since it became the capital following independence from Belgian rule in 1962.

6:00 PM Return to hotel, break

7:30 – 9:00 PM

Start up Nation Africa

Dinner with Fred Swaniker, Entrepreneur and Educator
-at Nyurah

Fred Swaniker is a Ghanaian serial entrepreneur and leadership development expert, seeking to transform Africa with a new generation of leaders. He started the African Leadership Group – an ecosystem of organizations that are catalyzing a new era of ethical, entrepreneurial African leaders. Over the past 16 years, he has founded and led the pre-university African Leadership Academy based in South Africa, the African Leadership University with campuses in Mauritius and Rwanda, the African Leadership Network, ALX (a next-generation leadership development platform) and The Room (a global community of top talent). Collectively, these endeavours aim to transform Africa by developing 3 million African leaders by 2035.

9:00 PM

Overnight at the Kigali Marriott Hotel, Kigali

Friday, September 8, 2023

Kigali, Rwanda

8:00 AM

Breakfast on own
-at Soko, Kigali Marriott Hotel

9:30 AM

Depart

11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

The Village Way, Part II

Visit to Agahozo-Shalom Youth Village

Discussion and Village tour with:

- Jean Claude Nkulikiyimfura, Director, Agahozo Shalom Youth Village
- Thomas Levy, Village Fellow

In 2005, while attending a talk about the Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda, Anne Heyman learned that the country had 1.2 million orphans. Without a systemic solution to support the well-being and development of Rwanda's vast orphan population, many were being left behind. Anne recognized that to address their orphan crisis following the Holocaust, Israel built residential communities that ensured the orphans' safety, security, and development. Anne was inspired to bring this model to Rwanda. From there, the Agahozo-Shalom Youth Village was founded.

12:30 – 1:00 PM

Lunch with Agahozo-Shalom students
-at the Agahozo-Shalom Youth Village

1:00 – 2:00 PM

Power Africa

Visit to SolarField

With Twaha Twagirimana, Plant Supervisor

This solar field at the Agahozo-Shalom Youth Village in Rwanda embraces a wide range of causes: it helps the long-term sustainability of the Village, it is good for the environment, it generates local employment and education and it empowers the country with access to electricity - which in itself results in a myriad of benefits for the Rwandan population. Located on rolling green hills, east of Kigali, this \$23 million project is the first utility-scale, grid-connected, commercial solar field in East Africa.

2:00 PM

Depart

3:00 – 4:30 PM

Visit to the Rwanda-Israel Horticulture Center of Excellence

The Rwanda-Israel Horticulture Center of Excellence was established by MASHAV, Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation, in Rwanda. This bilateral initiative was conceived in support of Rwanda's national plan to modernize its agricultural sector, to stimulate agricultural growth and alleviate rural poverty. The project is designed for all levels of the farming community, from small-holder to commercial-scale farmers, with special emphasis on building local capacities in agriculture and agricultural entrepreneurship.

4:30 PM

Depart

5:00 PM

Return to hotel, break

7:00 PM

Depart for dinner

7:30 – 9:30 PM

Closing Dinner

-at Choose Kigali

The closing dinner provides an opportunity for participants to process the scope of the week, from the religious center of the Judeo-Christian world in Jerusalem, to the dynamic, bustling capital city of Kigali, Rwanda. Participants will also have the opportunity to share their takeaways and ask any lingering questions that weren't covered during the week.

9:30 PM

Overnight at the Kigali Marriott Hotel, Kigali

Saturday, September 9, 2023

Kigali, Rwanda – Israel

8:00 – 9:15 AM

Breakfast on own

9:30 – 11:30 AM -at Soko, Kigali Marriott Hotel
Visit to Nyamirambo Women’s Center (optional)

The Nyamirambo Women’s center is a neighborhood coop and market founded and run by women in Kigali. During the visit the delegation will see the women working in traditional crafts including basket weaving and sewing.

12:00 PM Depart for the airport

12:30 PM VICTOR charter flight departs Kigali Airport
Lunch served

7:30 PM VICTOR charter flight arrives at Ben Gurion Airport

11:25 PM United 91 departs Ben Gurion Airport

11:55 PM Delta 235 departs Ben Gurion Airport

Sunday, September 10, 2023

4:20 AM United 91 arrives at Newark airport

5:05 AM Delta 235 arrives at JFK

**American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)
Mission to Israel and Rwanda
September 1-10, 2023**

Final Itinerary

Friday, September 1, 2023

Washington D.C. - Israel

10:55 PM United 90 departs Newark Airport

11:55 PM Delta 234 departs JFK

Saturday, September 2, 2023

Jerusalem, Israel

4:20 PM United 90 arrives at Ben Gurion Airport

5:35 PM Delta 234 arrives at Ben Gurion Airport

5:00 – 7:00 PM Transfer to Jerusalem
Check into the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

8:15 PM Depart

8:30-10:00 PM

Welcome to Jerusalem

- The Honorable Lucy McBath, Georgia
- Karl Douglass, National Deputy Director, Political Coalitions
- Mark Waldman, National Political Director
- Tova Serkin, Missions Director
-at Touro

10:00 PM Overnight at King David Hotel, Jerusalem

Sunday, September 3, 2023

Jerusalem, Israel

7:30 AM **Breakfast and overview of the day**
-at the King David Hotel, Ambassador Garden

8:00 AM	<p>Strategic Regional Overview Meeting with Lt. Col. (Res.) Jonathan Conricus Former International Spokesperson of the Israel Defense Forces -at the hotel, Ambassador Garden (AV)</p>
9:00 AM	<p>Depart Security check</p>
10:00 AM	<p>Meeting with the Honorable Benjamin Netanyahu Prime Minister -at the Prime Minister's office</p>
11:00 AM	<p>Depart Security check</p>
11:30-1:15 PM	<p>The Israel – Africa Partnership Meetings with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ambassador Ron Adam, Past Israeli Ambassador to Rwanda ▪ Ambassador Sharon Bar – Li, Deputy Director General, Head of Africa Desk, MOFA ▪ Benjy Krasna, Senior Advisor, North American Department ▪ Ambassador Eynat Shlein, Head of MASHAV <p>-at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs</p>
1:15 PM	<p>Depart for lunch</p>
1:45 PM	<p>Lunch -at the King David hotel, Ambassador Garden</p>
2:15-3:15 PM	<p>Israel on the International Stage Meeting with Dr. Tal Becker Senior Legal Advisor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs -at the King David hotel, Ambassador Garden</p>
3:45 PM	<p>Depart for the Old City</p>
4:00-6:45 PM	<p>Strategic Overview of Jerusalem</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ City of David ▪ Western Wall ▪ Church of the Holy Sepulchre
7:15 PM	<p>Depart</p>

7:30 – 9:30 PM

Israel's Contributions to Global Challenges

Dinner with:

- Danielle Abraham, Executive Director of Volcani International Partnerships
 - Ido Gutin, Director of Resource Development, Save a Child's Heart
 - Dr. Gerard Misago, Pediatric Cardiology, Save a Child's Heart
 - Sivan Yaari, Founder and CEO, Innovation Africa
- at Eucalyptus

9:30 PM

Overnight at the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

Monday, September 4, 2023

Jerusalem, Israel

7:15 AM

Breakfast

-at the King David Hotel, Main Dining Hall

7:45 AM

Depart for Yad Vashem

8:15 AM

The Significance of the Holocaust in Israeli Society

Visit to the Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum

Wreath laying

10:45 AM

Depart

11:30-12:15 PM

Meeting with the Honorable Benny Gantz

Leader of the National Unity party

-at the Vert hotel

12:15 PM

Lunch

-at the Vert hotel

1:00 PM

Depart

3:15 – 4:30 PM

The Village Way, Part I

Visit to Yemin Orde Youth Village

Meetings with:

- Dotan Levi, Director of the Village Way Educational Institute
- Susan Weijel, Deputy Director of Yemin Orde
- Racheli Yaso-Ngatuo, Director of Visitor Relations and Outreach Programs at the Yemin Orde Youth Village

- 4:30 PM Depart
- 5:00 PM **Judicial Reform: Views from the Protest Movement**
Coffee with:
- Ibrahim Abu-Ahmed, Arab-Israeli Activist and Columnist
 - Ashager Araro, Ethiopian Israeli Activist and Social Entrepreneur
 - Ariel Rotman, Activist
- at Elma hotel, Gallery 1
- 6:15 PM Depart
- 8:00 – 10:00 PM **Start-Up Nation: Israeli Innovation and Ingenuity**
- Yossi Abramowitz, Energiya Global
 - Wendy Singer, Zzapp Malaria
- at King David hotel, Ambassador Garden (AV)
- 10:00 PM Overnight at the King David Hotel, Jerusalem

Tuesday, September 5, 2023

Jerusalem, Israel – Kigali, Rwanda

- 7:30 AM Breakfast
-at the King David Hotel, Main Dining Hall
- 8:00 AM Depart for the Gaza envelope
- 9:45 AM Arrive at Netiv Ha'asara
- 10:00 – 10:45 AM **Israel's Southern Border Threats**
Briefing with Col. (ret.) Miri Eisin
Incoming Director of International Institute for Counter-Terrorism (ICT), Reichman University
-at Netiv Ha'asara (AV)
- 10:45 AM **View from the Peace Wall**
-visit to border between Netiv Ha'asara and the Gaza Strip
- 11:15 AM Depart
- 11:30 AM **The U.S.-Israeli Relationship: Iron Dome**
Visit to an Iron Dome battery
-at Ibim

12:00 PM	Depart for the airport lunch boxes en route
1:30 PM	Fattal Terminal, Ben Gurion Airport
3:00 PM	VICTOR charter flight departs Ben Gurion Airport
7:30 PM	VICTOR charter flight arrives at Kigali Airport
8:30 PM	Transfer to Kigali Marriott Hotel, Kigali
9:00 PM	Overnight at the Kigali Marriott Hotel, Kigali

Wednesday, September 6, 2023

Kigali, Rwanda

8:00 AM	Breakfast opens -at the Virunga/Muhazi meeting room, Kigali Marriott Hotel
8:45 – 9:00 AM	Welcome and Orientation -at the Virunga/Muhazi meeting room, Kigali Marriott Hotel
9:00 – 10:00 AM	Welcome to Kigali Briefing with Dr. Lonzen Rugira, Managing Editor, <i>Pan-African Review Magazine</i> -at the Virunga/Muhazi meeting room, Kigali Marriott Hotel
10:00 AM	Depart
10:30 AM – 12:00 PM	The Rwandan Parliament Meeting with members of Parliament -at the Parliament of Rwanda
12:00 PM	Depart
12:15 – 1:00 PM	Meeting with the Honorable Dr. Ugirashebuja Emmanuel Minister of Justice -at the Ministry of Justice
1:00 PM	Depart

1:10 – 2:00 PM	Envision Rwanda Lunch with Peter Lee Founder, Envision Arts -at Soy Asian
2:00 PM	Depart
2:30 PM	Arrive at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
3:00 – 4:00 PM	Meeting with the Honorable Vincent Biruta Minister of Foreign Affairs -at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
4:00 PM	Depart
4:15 –7:15 PM	Kigali Genocide Memorial Visit to the Museum and Memorial
7:15 PM	Depart
7:30 PM	Arrive at Fusion, Retreat Hotel
7:30 – 10:00 PM	Dinner with His Excellency Vincent Biruta Foreign Minister of Rwanda -at Fusion, Retreat Hotel
10:00 PM	Overnight at the Kigali Marriott Hotel, Kigali

Thursday, September 7, 2023

Kigali, Rwanda

8:00 AM	Breakfast on own -at Soko, Kigali Marriott Hotel
9:00 AM	Members only: Depart for the U.S. Embassy
9:30 AM – 11:00 AM	Members only: Meeting with the Honorable Deb Maclean Chargé d'Affaires, U.S. Embassy -at the U.S. Embassy in Kigali
11:00 AM	Depart

11:30 AM – 12:15 PM	<p>Members only: Meeting with the Honorable Marizamunda Juvenal Minister of Defense -at the Ministry of Defense</p>
10:00 AM – 12:15 PM	<p>Family guests: Kigali’s Art Collectives Visits to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Envision Rwanda ▪ Niyo Arts Center
12:15 PM	Return to hotel, family guests rejoin Members
12:30 – 2:00 PM	<p>Lunch with the Honorable Einat Weiss Israel’s Ambassador to Rwanda -at Cucina, Kigali Marriott Hotel</p>
2:00 PM	Depart
2:30 – 4:30 PM	<p>Bean to Cup: Female Farmers and Rwanda’s Coffee Renaissance -at Question Coffeehouse</p>
4:30 – 6:00 PM	<p>Amakuru Kigali Driving tour of Kigali</p>
6:00 PM	Return to hotel, break
7:15 PM	Depart
7:30 – 9:00 PM	<p>Solving Global Challenges Panel with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Patrick Buchana, CEO, AC Group Ltd. ▪ Jonathan Kamin, Mission Director, USAID in Rwanda ▪ Dr. John Baptist Nkuranga, Director, Medical Services, King Faisal Hospital <p>Moderated by: Mr. Karl Douglass -at Nyurah</p>
9:00 PM	Overnight at the Kigali Marriott Hotel, Kigali

Friday, September 8, 2023

Kigali, Rwanda

8:00 AM	Breakfast on own -at Soko, Kigali Marriott Hotel
8:30 AM	Depart
9:00 – 10:30 AM	Visit to the Rwanda-Israel Horticulture Center of Excellence
10:30 AM	Depart
11:30 AM – 1:15 PM	The Village Way, Part II Visit to Agahozo-Shalom Youth Village Discussion and Village tour
1:15 – 1:45 PM	Lunch with Agahozo-Shalom students -at the Agahozo-Shalom Youth Village
1:45 – 2:30 PM	Meeting with Honorable Dr. Ernest Nsabimana Minister of Infrastructure -at the Anne Heyman Solar Field
2:30 PM	Depart
4:00 PM	Return to hotel, Break
5:00 PM	Depart
5:30 – 7:30 PM	Meeting with His Excellency Paul Kagame President of Rwanda
7:30 PM	Depart for dinner
7:45 – 9:30 PM	Closing Dinner -at Choose Kigali
9:30 PM	Overnight at the Kigali Marriott Hotel, Kigali

Saturday, September 9, 2023

Kigali, Rwanda – Israel

8:30 – 9:30 AM	Breakfast on own -at Soko, Kigali Marriott Hotel
11:00 AM	Depart for the airport
11:30 AM	Arrive at the airport
12:30 PM	VICTOR charter flight departs Kigali Airport Lunch served
7:00 PM	VICTOR charter flight arrives at Ben Gurion Airport
11:25 PM	United 91 departs Ben Gurion Airport
11:55 PM	Delta 235 departs Ben Gurion Airport

Sunday, September 10, 2023

4:20 AM	United 91 arrives at Newark airport
5:05 AM	Delta 235 arrives at JFK

American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)
Mission to Israel and Rwanda
September 1-10, 2023

Addendum

4. List of Invitees

As members of the House of Representatives, and the Congressional Black Caucus, these invitees are consistently engaged in issue areas relevant to the trilateral U.S. – Israel – Africa relationship. These issues include U.S. foreign policy, U.S. appropriations, refugee and immigrant issues, homeland security, cybersecurity, and veteran’s affairs. These issues—along with issues more broadly related to the strategic partnership between the U.S. and Israel, and Israel and Rwanda—will be explored during the AIEF Israel Seminar, which is focused on educating members of Congress on events throughout the region by providing on-the-ground context.

1. The Honorable Alma Adams (North Carolina)
2. The Honorable Joyce Beatty (Ohio)
3. The Honorable Sanford Bishop (Georgia)
4. The Honorable Troy Carter (Louisiana)
5. The Honorable Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick (Florida)
6. The Honorable Valerie Foushee (North Carolina)
7. The Honorable Jonathan Jackson (Illinois)
8. The Honorable Sydney Kamlager (California)
9. The Honorable Lucy McBath (Georgia)
10. The Honorable Jennifer McClellan (Virginia)
11. The Honorable Gregory Meeks (New York)
12. The Honorable Kweisi Mfume (Maryland)
13. The Honorable Bobby Scott (Virginia)
14. The Honorable Bennie Thompson (Mississippi)
15. The Honorable Ritchie Torres (New York)
16. The Honorable Nikema Williams (Georgia)

18. Breakdown of other expenses

Other Cost	Cost per person
Security	\$2,519.60
Airport Assistance	\$748.40
Room Rentals and Setup	\$648.00
Speaker Fees	\$512.00
Misc.	\$398.40
Hotels for contract staff	\$346.40
Tips	\$224.32
Tour Guides	\$184.80
Meals for contract staff and guests	\$134.80
Transportation for contract staff & guests	\$83.20
Photography	\$29.12
Entrance Fees	\$24.48
Total =	\$5,853.52

April 11, 2023

VIA EMAIL-travel.requests@mail.house.gov

Chairman Michael Guest
Ranking Member Susan Wild
Committee on Ethics, U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Chairman Guest and Ranking Member Wild:

I serve as the Chief Legal Counsel for the American Israel Education Foundation (“AIEF”). As you know, AIEF, a 501(c)(3) organization, sponsors congressional trips to Israel. This year, AIEF is planning to sponsor a trip for select members of the Congressional Black Caucus (“CBC”) scheduled for September 1-10, 2023. This trip will include a special leg to Kigali, Rwanda, where the members will witness, first-hand, the impact of the special, strong and fruitful relationship between the State of Israel and the Republic of Rwanda. This leg of the trip is scheduled to take place between September 5-9, 2023.

To accommodate travel to Rwanda, AIEF is seeking to charter a flight, with this Committee’s approval, that would allow the CBC members to travel in a cohesive group, without multiple flight arrangements and stopovers that would create security concerns and additional trip expense. Section 305.1 of the Travel Regulations issued by the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Ethics provides that approval for charter air travel must be sought in writing and approved by the Committee prior to the trip if the trip sponsor demonstrates, among other things: 1) “that the cost of such travel does not exceed the cost of available business-class transportation;” 2) “genuine security circumstances require such travel;” (3) “the scheduled travel time, including airport layovers and change of planes, is in excess of 4 hours from takeoff to landing...;” or (4) “the flight begins before midnight and lands after 5 a.m. the following day.” Here, several of these factors are met, justifying approval for charter air travel.

The estimated cost for a round-trip ticket on a commercial airline from D.C. to Tel Aviv is approximately \$10,000 per passenger. The estimated cost of a round-trip ticket from D.C. to Tel Aviv to Kigali to D.C. can range anywhere from \$13,000 to \$20,000 per passenger depending on when the ticket is purchased (which is, in turn, dependent on when members confirm their participation in the trip). If a charter flight to Kigali were added, the estimated additional cost per passenger would be \$8,072.¹ This added charter flight would allow the members to travel from D.C. to Tel Aviv, from Tel Aviv to Kigali, from Kigali to Tel Aviv, and then from Tel Aviv back to D.C., for an estimated total cost of \$18,072 per person, which would be within the aforementioned estimated cost range for a round-trip ticket from D.C. to Tel Aviv to Kigali to D.C.

There would indeed be serious security concerns if the members were required to travel via commercial flights for the Kigali leg of the trip, as it would not be possible for the entire delegation to travel together as a unit on any of the flights. To accommodate this group on a commercial airline, the members would need to be split among four or five different airlines for each leg of the trip, each landing at different times with different stops along the way. There are no direct or

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Tax ID# 52-1623781

¹ This estimated cost is based on a 35-person passenger chartered plane.

indirect commercial flights that would accommodate the entire group at once. The various factions would need to make stops in Istanbul, Turkey and Entebbe, Uganda, which would create additional security risks. A charter flight, on the other hand, would allow the entire group to remain together and to travel back and forth from Tel Aviv to Kigali without any stops. If the Committee approves the charter flight requests, the members flights would be limited to a total of four flights ((1) D.C. to Tel Aviv; (2) Tel Aviv to Kigali; (3) Kigali to Tel Aviv; and (4) Tel Aviv to D.C.). However, if the group were required to fly commercial airlines, there will be at least seven different flights, including five between Tel Aviv and Kigali and back given the various layovers.

These various layovers would create additional travel time, in excess of 14 hours from takeoff to landing from Tel Aviv to Kigali and Kigali to Tel Aviv. Furthermore, if the members were required to travel from Kigali back to Washington, D.C., the shortest commercial itinerary would be 23 hours and 25 minutes on Brussel Airlines, departing 8:05 pm from Kigali on September 9 and arriving 1:30 p.m. in Washington, D.C. on September 10. Thus, the flight time would “begin before midnight and land after 5 a.m. the following day.”

Given the totality of circumstances, we respectfully request that the Committee grant AIEF’s request to charter a flight for the members of the CBC from Tel Aviv to Kigali and from Kigali back to Tel Aviv. Chartered flights for this leg of the trip would remain within the same range of estimated costs of commercial airline flights, reduce security concerns related to multiple layovers on various flights and reduce overall travel time.

AIEF is currently in the process of negotiating with a chartered flight company to reserve a private plane in the event this Committee approves its request. Given the demand for chartered flights, the charter company will only hold our request for a limited period before the plane is forfeited to another potential customer. Therefore, we respectfully request that this Committee respond to, and hopefully approve, our request within one (1) week of the date of this letter so that AIEF may reserve a chartered plane for this trip.

We appreciate your attention to this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns. I can be reached at (202) 246-0519 or via email at: rhirsch@aiefdn.org.

Very truly yours,

Rachel Hirsch

Rachel Hirsch
Chief Legal Counsel