

## United States Senate

November 23, 2016

Acting Under Secretary Adam Szubin  
Office of Terrorism and Financial Intelligence  
U.S. Department of the Treasury  
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20220

Dear Acting Under Secretary Szubin,

I write to inquire about the status of your response to the letter from myself and several of my senate colleagues dated October 6, 2016, regarding the Treasury Department's recent issue of commercial licenses to Boeing and Airbus for the sale of commercial aircraft to Iran Air. While I find your lack of a response to our last letter troubling, I would note that the issue surrounding commercial aircraft usage for illicit purposes by the Iranian regime has now expanded, given new intelligence information alleging that Iran has indeed been using Mahan Air—a commercial airline that is currently subject to U.S. and UN sanctions—to smuggle weapons and ammunition to Hezbollah in Lebanon.

According to a November 22 report by the *Jerusalem Post*, Israel's Permanent Representative to the Security Council, Ambassador Danny Danon, sent an urgent letter to the Security Council in which he revealed the smuggling route from Iran's Revolutionary Guards to Hezbollah forces on the ground in Lebanon.<sup>1</sup> In his letter, Ambassador Danon stated that "[t]he Iranian Al-Quds Force packs weapons, ammunition, and missile technology to Hezbollah in suitcases and puts them on Mahan Air flights." He further specified that "these planes fly directly to the airport in Lebanon or Damascus and from there the weapons are transferred on the ground to Hezbollah."

Further, Ambassador Danon's letter stated that due to the supply of arms from Iran, Hezbollah now possesses about 120,000 missiles underground in Lebanon—more than 17 times the number of missiles it possessed 10 years ago, and more than the European NATO allies have above the ground.<sup>2</sup>

This report confirms precisely the fear we expressed in our October 6 letter: that Iran continues to use commercial aircraft to smuggle weapons and ammunition in violation of UN Security Council resolution 2231 to support its terrorist proxies. We are rightly concerned that Iran may continue to do so with the new commercial aircraft it purchases from Boeing and Airbus, as permitted by the U.S. Treasury Department.

I was also disturbed to see that Airbus, one of the companies seeking licenses for the sale of commercial aircraft to the government of Iran, was just awarded a second license from U.S.

---

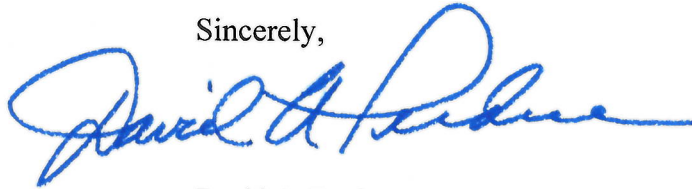
<sup>1</sup> Dana Somberg and Maariv Hashavua, "[\*Israel: Iran is smuggling weapons to Hezbollah on commercial flights\*](#)" JERUSALEM POST, Nov. 22, 2016.

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

Office of Foreign Asset Control (OFAC) to sell up to 118 jets to Iran.<sup>3</sup> To echo the concerns of our last letter, what, if any, end-use monitoring controls can you guarantee will follow this license to ensure that these aircraft are not used to further support Iran's terrorist proxies or support for the Assad regime in Syria?

I trust you will do everything in your power to investigate these claims and provide answers to our questions regarding any OFAC license protections against potential illicit use of any planes sold to the government of Iran. For your convenience, enclosed is our October 6 letter to aid you in answering all our questions fully. Given the seriousness of this new information, as well as the span of time since our last letter, I and my colleagues would appreciate a thorough response to our questions by December 6, 2016.

Sincerely,



David A. Perdue  
United States Senator

Cc: The Honorable John Kerry  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State

---

<sup>3</sup> Robert Wall, "[Airbus Says U.S. More Plan Deliveries to Iran](#)" WALL STREET JOURNAL, Nov. 22, 2016.