

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 15, 2022

President Joseph R. Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20502

Dear President Biden,

We the undersigned urge you to take a holistic look at the threats emanating from the Islamic Republic of Iran and reconsider the current policy course your administration is pursuing. On Saturday March 12, Iran fired between 10-12 ballistic missiles at or near a U.S. facility in Erbil¹ Iraq that has previously come under rocket and drone fire from Iran-backed proxies.²

However, this time, Tehran fired ballistic missiles from its own territory and brazenly claimed responsibility. This unprovoked attack is a significant escalation by the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps, which your administration seeks to delist as a Foreign Terrorist Organization and/or waive sanctions on. This attack demonstrates that Tehran fears neither a substantive U.S. military pushback, nor a breakdown in nuclear negotiations aiming to restore a lesser version of the Iran nuclear deal – the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Shockingly, your administration's senior national security and foreign policy officials shrugged off the attack. They claimed it did not target the US Consulate and suggested that the negotiations in Vienna would continue unscathed.

The recent erosion of U.S. military deterrence against Iran is alarming. Inaction in response to Iran's provocation would invite Tehran to continue escalating its malicious behavior towards the United States and its regional allies.

Your administration has focused entirely on securing a nuclear deal with Iran, while disregarding its ongoing malign behavior. Providing the world's foremost state sponsor of terror with sanctions relief and a pathway to not only nuclear enrichment at an industrial scale, but also a pathway to develop, test and transfer missiles with impunity would be a grave mistake under normal

¹ <https://tn.ai/2681703>; <https://www.cnbc.com/2022/03/13/no-us-military-casualties-after-attack-in-erbil-iraq-us-official.html>; www.washingtonpost.com/world/2022/03/12/irbil-attack-iraq/

² <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/rockets-land-near-us-forces-erbil-airport-northern-iraq-officials-2021-09-11/>; <https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2021/02/iraq-erbil-kurdistan-us-militias.html>

circumstances. Continuing on this course as though Iran's attack is immaterial will end in catastrophe.

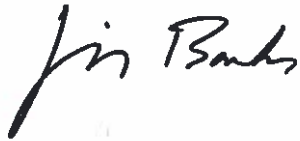
President Trump implemented a maximum pressure campaign to successfully curb Iran's malign behavior, but Iranian officials clearly believe your administration is committed to reviving some form of the flawed JCPOA, regardless of Iran's escalating menace. You must prove them wrong by terminating the Russia-backed talks immediately.

We would like your administration to answer the following questions:

- 1) What measure, if at all, is your administration planning to take in response to Iran's unprovoked attack that threatens US interest in Iraq?
- 2) Why is your administration continuing negotiating Iran after the attack, what is your redline to walk away from the Vienna talks?
- 3) How is your administration planning to address Iran's non-nuclear malign behavior in general, as you are focused on reviving the nuclear deal?

We very much appreciate your response by Tuesday, March 22.

Sincerely,



JIM BANKS
Chair, Republican Study Committee



JOE WILSON
Chair, RSC National Security Task Force
