



One Hundred Eighteenth Congress
Committee on Homeland Security
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

August 31, 2023

The Honorable Alejandro
Mayorkas
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland
Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

The Honorable Christopher Wray
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C. 20535

The Honorable Christine Abizaid
Director
National Counterterrorism Center
Washington, D.C. 20511

Dear Secretary Mayorkas, Director Wray, and Director Abizaid:

We write to request additional information about the persistent threats posed by Iran's campaign to direct operations against U.S. persons or other targets in the U.S. homeland. These brazen activities have continued for some time now. We seek information about how the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and the National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC) are working together to stay ahead of these threats and take preventative actions.

Iran has threatened to retaliate against American citizens, including senior-level former and current U.S. officials, for the January 2020 killing of Qasem Soleimani, former commander of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps Quds Force (IRGC-QF).¹ For example, on August 10, 2022, the Department of Justice (DOJ) announced charges against an Iranian national and member of Iran's IRGC-QF for arranging the assassination of John Bolton, who served in senior national security positions during multiple Presidential administrations, and Mike Pompeo, who was the former Secretary of State under the prior administration.² Further, credible threats by Iran have continued to persist against Pompeo as well as his former top aide, Brian Hook, who

¹ *Worldwide Threats to the Homeland: Hearing Before the H. Comm. on Homeland Sec.*, 117th Cong. (Nov. 15, 2023) (testimony of Alejandro Mayorkas, Sec'y., Dep't of Homeland Sec.) (testimony of Christopher A. Wray, Dir., Fed. Bureau of Investigation).

² Press Release, U.S. Dep't of Justice, *Member of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) Charged with Plot to Murder the Former National Security Advisor* (Aug. 10, 2022); Brad Dress, *Pompeo also targeted in an Iranian assassination plot: reports*, THE HILL (Aug. 11, 2022).

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served as special representative for Iran during the prior administration.³ This is by no means an exhaustive list, but includes some of the more notable examples where Iran has threatened senior-level U.S. government officials.

These brazen activities are not limited to those plots, but also include Iran's efforts to silence those who publicly criticize the regime on U.S. soil and elsewhere around the world. For example, in August 2022, a British-Indian journalist who had been critical of the Iranian regime was stabbed by an attacker in upstate New York.⁴ Iran's Supreme Leader previously called for the journalist's assassination and placed a bounty of \$3 million for his death.⁵ Earlier this year, on January 27, 2023, the DOJ announced charges against three members of an Eastern European criminal group for plotting to murder an American citizen of Iranian origin in New York City who has publicly opposed the Iranian regime's human rights abuses.⁶

Additionally, Iran continues to support its partner force Lebanese Hizballah, a U.S.-designated Foreign Terrorist Organization.⁷ Testifying before the Committee on Homeland Security just last year, FBI Director Wray asserted, "Hizballah has sent operatives to build terrorist infrastructures worldwide. The arrests of individuals in the United States allegedly linked to Hizballah's main overseas terrorist arm, and their intelligence collection and procurement efforts, demonstrate Hizballah's interest in long-term contingency planning activities here in the Homeland."⁸ Similar statements have been made by both Secretary Mayorkas and Director Abizaid.⁹

Meanwhile, it is curious that while these egregious activities continue, the Biden administration is not taking actions to impose consequences on the Iranian regime and instead has renewed its push for a nuclear deal with Iran. To assist the Committee's examination of the threats posed by Iran in the U.S. homeland, we request that DHS, the FBI, and NCTC provide Committee staff a classified briefing no later than September 14, 2023 about these ongoing threats, to include but not limited to, information about the number of active plots by Iran or its proxies against U.S. persons living in the United States, as well as information about your respective agencies' coordination efforts for threat intelligence to counter Iran's activities. Please

³ Matthew Lee, *US says Iran threats to ex-officials Pompeo, Hook persist*, ASSOCIATED PRESS (Nov. 14, 2022), <https://apnews.com/article/iran-middle-east-mike-pompeo-congress-government-and-politics-cbec8a3658f76ccfe1d0757d962f6689>.

⁴ Salman Rushdie severely injured in stabbing at lecture in New York; suspect in custody, (2022), <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/salman-rushdie-attacked-stage-new-york/> (last visited Apr 28, 2023).

⁵ Iran says Rushdie and supporters to blame for attack | Reuters, <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/iran-says-rushdie-supporters-blame-his-attack-2022-08-15/> (last visited Apr 28, 2023).

⁶ Press Release, U.S. Dep't of Justice, *Justice Department Announces Charges and New Arrest in Connection with Assassination Plot Directed from Iran* (Jan. 27, 2023).

⁷ *Worldwide Threats to the Homeland: Hearing Before the H. Comm. on Homeland Sec.*, 117th Cong. (Nov. 15, 2023) (testimony of Christopher A. Wray, Dir., Fed. Bureau of Investigation).

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ *See generally, Worldwide Threats to the Homeland: Hearing Before the H. Comm. on Homeland Sec.*, 117th Cong. (Nov. 15, 2023).

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contact the Committee on Homeland Security Majority staff at (202) 226-8417 with any questions about this request.

Per House Rule X, the Committee on Homeland Security is the principal committee of jurisdiction for overall homeland security policy and has special oversight functions of “all Government activities relating to homeland security, including the interaction of all departments and agencies with the Department of Homeland Security.”

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Mark E. Green, MD
Chairman
Committee on Homeland Security



August Pfluger
Chairman
Subcommittee on Counterterrorism,
Law Enforcement, and Intelligence

cc: The Honorable Bennie Thompson, Ranking Member
Committee on Homeland Security

The Honorable Seth Magaziner, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Counterterrorism, Law Enforcement, and Intelligence