

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 10, 2020

President Donald Trump  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

We write with grave concern about the safety of our diplomats, service members, personnel, and their families in embassies and consulates in the Middle East now grappling from the fallout of the United States' targeted killing of General Qassem Soleimani. The operation is part of an escalatory cycle of violence coming after supporters of Kata'ib Hezbollah and other Iran-backed Iraqi militias breached and burned parts of the Baghdad Embassy. In retaliation for the death of General Soleimani, Iran struck two bases where U.S. troops were housed with ballistic missiles. In the most significant tensions between Iran and the U.S. in forty years, it is becoming clear that our embassies and consulates could become targets.

Your administration has statutory responsibility to protect American officials serving abroad. These diplomatic security responsibilities include developing and implementing programs to protect U.S. government personnel abroad and, when necessary, providing for the safe evacuation of such personnel when their lives are endangered. Tehran and its proxies have demonstrated the capacity to plot and in some cases successfully carry out attacks around the world, meaning the embassies and missions must evaluate potential targets and suspicious actors globally. To adequately evaluate their security stance and maintain the security of personnel and facilities, U.S. Embassies, Consulates, and missions require timely information, intelligence, and full support from your Administration in Washington.

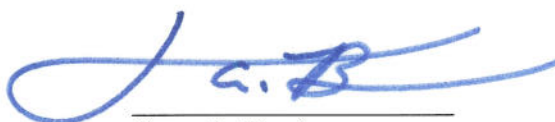
We respectfully request answers to the following questions:

- What notice, if any, was given to Embassies Baghdad, Beirut, Amman, Kuwait City, Doha, Manama, Islamabad, and Kabul ahead of the strike that killed General Soleimani in order to account for the threat of Iranian retaliation?
- Are there any plans to evacuate personnel or family members from missions in the region?
- What additional measures have been put in place to protect personnel and overseas posts from damage and attack?
- What consideration has been given, if any to the convening of an Accountability Review Board in the wake of the December 31, 2019 breach of the U.S. Embassy Baghdad compound?
- Has there been deployment of Marines assigned to the Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force to missions across the region other than U.S. Embassy Baghdad?
- What has been the response from host country authorities to augment security provided by host country security forces?

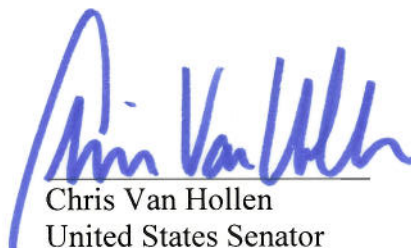
- What role, if any, has the Deputy Assistant Secretary and Assistant Director for High Threat Programs played in the planning for the security of personnel and missions in the region?
- What plans, if any, are there to use carryover funds from previously appropriated embassy security funds to augment facility security in light of the increased threat posed by Iran and its proxies?
- What evidence do you have regarding General Soleimani's alleged plot to destroy the Baghdad Embassy?

The American people, including Congress were not a part of your decision to unnecessarily escalate tensions in the region. As the U.S. military, diplomats, personnel, and their family members face increasing risks in the region as a result of the unintended consequences from killing of General Soleimani, the work of protecting them has never been more important. We thank you for your prompt attention to these questions.

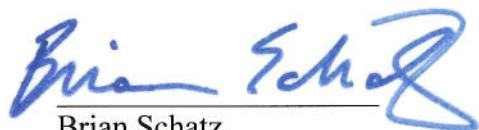
Sincerely,



Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator



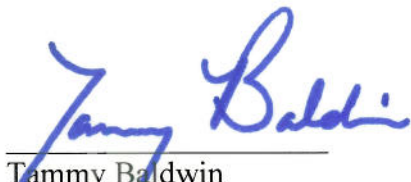
Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator



Brian Schatz  
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senator



Tim Kaine  
United States Senator



Tom Udall  
United States Senator

CC: Michael Pompeo, Secretary of State  
CC: Mark Esper, Secretary of Defense