

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 14, 2021

The Honorable Linda Thomas-Greenfield
Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations
United States Mission to the United Nations
799 United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017

Dear Ambassador Thomas-Greenfield:

We are writing to express our deep concern about reports that the Biden administration is considering supporting the lifting of United Nations sanctions on the Taliban. Just weeks prior to the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, the United States completed our ill-advised withdrawal and the Taliban violently retook control of Afghanistan. The Taliban's continued relationship with al Qaeda will certainly lead to a resurgent terror threat that will not only have implications for our national security, but the security of our global partners. Further, Americans and our allies left behind are in grave danger, a massive refugee crisis only continues to grow, and the fate of Afghan women and other vulnerable populations looks increasingly grim, despite pledges and promises by the Biden Administration. The urgency of the situation cannot be overstated.

Questionable and consequential decisions by the White House, State Department, and others have put us in the horrific position we are in now – where the Taliban holds the power and our citizens are at their mercy. The Biden Administration has maintained that the Taliban desires international legitimacy and financing. That legitimacy and funding must be denied while American citizens, Afghan partners, and others remain behind enemy lines, while the Taliban continues to maintain ties to al Qaeda and harbors terrorists that seek to harm Americans and our allies, and while the Taliban refuses to respect and protect the rights of all Afghan citizens. The travel ban, asset freezes, and arms embargos imposed by these sanctions are critical to that effort.

With the Taliban's capture of Kabul, we believe it necessary for the United States to support the full implementation of all United Nations sanctions on the Taliban, including rescinding previously issued waivers to the travel ban that are providing them the international legitimacy and access they want. We must maintain what little leverage this administration has left in place to secure the continued evacuation of Americans and our partners, and to ensure we are doing all we can to prevent the reconstitution of terrorist threats to our homeland.

Sincerely,



Andy Barr
Member of Congress`



Young Kim
Member of Congress



Bill Johnson
Member of Congress



Ted Budd
Member of Congress



Ralph Norman
Member of Congress



Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



Elise Stefanik
Member of Congress



Glenn 'GT' Thompson
Member of Congress




Anthony Gonzalez
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Dan Meuser
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Mark E. Green, M.D.
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Ronny L. Jackson
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Liz Cheney
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Bob Gibbs
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Bill Posey
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Tracey Mann
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Brian Mast
Member of Congress



Steve Chabot
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Jody Hice
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Brad R. Wenstrup, D.P.M.
Member of Congress