Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

November 19, 2026

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
Office of the President
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President;

We write to express serious concern regarding your invitation to Vladimir Putin to attend the G20 summit in Miami this December and urge you to immediately rescind this invitation. [1] Not only did Russia launch an unprovoked and unjustified invasion of Ukraine over four years ago, but we are now seeing troubling reports that Russia has provided Iran with satellite imagery and related intelligence that may have assisted Iranian strikes on U.S. forces, including the late-March attack on Prince Sultan Air Base in Saudi Arabia. That attack reportedly wounded twelve American service members and destroyed a U.S. Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) aircraft.

Further, the recent deal you made with Russia to purchase diesel while simultaneously waiving sanctions on Russia demonstrates a lack of awareness of the national security needs of the United States. [2] Our troops need to know that you stand with them, not with an authoritarian leader who is actively undermining their service.

Since Operation Epic Fury began in late February, The Washington Post reported that Russia was providing Iran with targeting information to strike American forces in the Middle East — describing it as the first sign that a major U.S. adversary was participating in the conflict. An intelligence official was quoted as saying the assistance was "a pretty comprehensive effort," and the reporting indicated the information included the locations of U.S. warships and aircraft. [3] Iran does not possess a satellite constellation capable of providing this kind of imagery on its own, which makes Russia's space-based surveillance capability especially valuable to Tehran. If the reporting is accurate, the Russian government is assisting Iran in targeting U.S. military personnel while simultaneously seeking sanctions relief and greater influence within our government.

In March when asked what message he had for Iran's allies Russia and China, Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth said, "I don't have a message for them, and they're not really a factor here, and our issue is not with them." [3] During a Senate hearing in July, Secretary Hegseth was asked about potential Russian assistance to Iran and stated that "there's definitely adversary alignment, attempts to do so, and there are many ways that we deter that." [4] Days later, however, you stated you did not believe Russia was assisting Iran. [4]

In March, CIA Director John Ratcliffe told the Senate Intelligence Committee that Iran was requesting intelligence assistance from Russia. [5] In late August, Director Ratcliffe reportedly

[1] https://www.politico.com/news/2026/09/23/trump-putin-g20-miami-01089850
[2] https://www.cbsnews.com/news/trump-faces-bipartisan-backlash-over-waiving-russia-sanctions/
[3] https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2026/03/06/russia-iran-intelligence-us-targets/
[4] https://www.cbsnews.com/news/zelenskyy-russia-iran-satellite-imagery-us-bases/

traveled to Moscow to meet with his intelligence counterparts. According to press reporting, he urged Russia not to attack NATO, to end the war in Ukraine, and to stop supporting Iran by cutting off economic and military assistance. [6] Meanwhile, you, Mr. President, described the unusual trip as "semi-routine" and said it was not related to Iran. [6]

Additional reporting raises concern about whether the Department was made aware that Iran had received this intelligence from Russia. In March, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy warned that Russian spy satellites were photographing strategic sites and energy grids in the Middle East, including Saudi Arabia and Qatar. [4]

Maintaining a relationship with President Putin under these circumstances is an affront to our national security interests, and it is naïve to believe he is acting in good faith while also actively supplying the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism with imagery reportedly linked to an attack that wounded twelve of our troops and destroyed a military aircraft.

Beyond providing Iran with military intelligence, it has also been reported that Russia is providing Iran with "explosives, drone components, and ammunition" and "has continued to help Iran develop its own 'advanced supersonic cruise missiles." [7] If this reporting is accurate, then you would have just waived sanctions for, and cut a diesel deal with, a country actively arming our adversary.

The G20 summit seeks to convene governments to discuss economic cooperation, trade, and global financial stability. When Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022, the United States and our allies imposed an unprecedented number of sanctions on Russia. Your posture toward President Putin undermines these efforts; it does not impose costs on Russia but rewards them. This is not a time to enter economic collaboration or discussions with Russia beyond ending their unjust war, at the G20 summit or elsewhere. We must continue to impose costs on Russia's horrific actions that are harming both American servicemembers and the Ukrainian people.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Gilbert Ray Cisneros, Jr.
Member of Congress

Don Bacon
Member of Congress

Patrick Ryan
Member of Congress

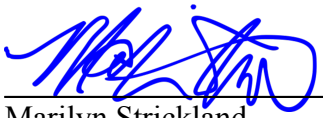
[5] https://www.intelligence.senate.gov/2026/03/17/open-hearing-worldwide-threats-2/
[6] https://www.cbsnews.com/news/cia-john-ratcliffe-warned-russia-not-to-attack-nato-moscow-trip/
[7] https://www.crs.gov/Reports/R48887



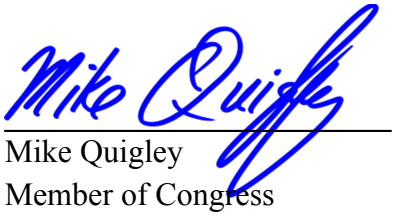
Herbert C. Conaway, Jr.
Member of Congress



Chrissy Houlahan
Member of Congress



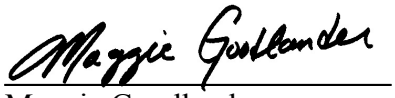
Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress



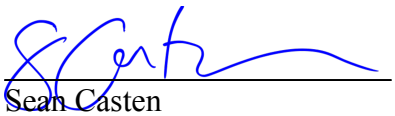
Mike Quigley
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Jim Costa
Member of Congress



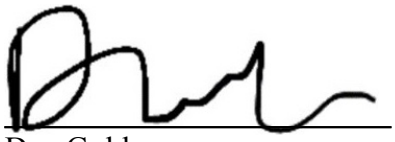
Maggie Goodlander
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Sean Casten
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Veronica Escobar
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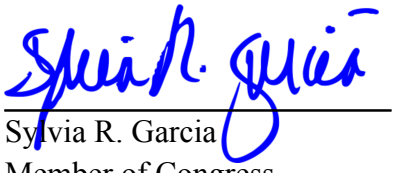
Dan Goldman
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Eric Sorensen
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Jason Crow
Member of Congress



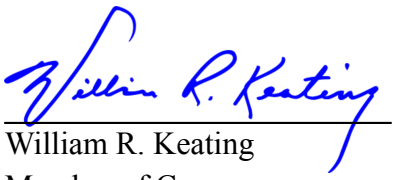
Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress



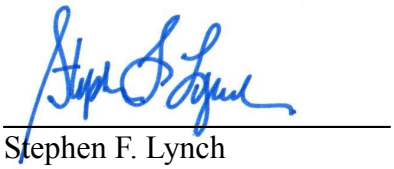
Deborah K. Ross
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Stephen F. Lynch
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Madeleine Dean
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