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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2502

April 28, 2021

The Honorable Diana R. Shaw
Acting Inspector General
United States Department of State
SA-39
1700 North Moore Street
Arlington, Virginia 22209

Dear Acting Inspector General Shaw:

We write to draw your attention to recent allegations surrounding United States Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry. We are appalled by Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif's claim that Special Envoy Kerry, as Secretary of State, revealed Israel's covert attacks on Iranian interests in Syria. Iran poses an existential threat to Israel, the United States' key ally in the Middle East, and it has repeatedly demonstrated its willingness to attack Israel directly, both through proxies and from its positions in Syria. Given the gravity of the security threat Iran poses to U.S. and Israeli interests, we respectfully ask that you fully investigate these allegations.

On April 25, 2021, the *New York Times* reported that former Secretary of State John Kerry informed Mr. Zarif, "to his astonishment," that Israel had attacked Iranian interests in Syria at least 200 times. Special Envoy Kerry has also admitted that he secretly met with Mr. Zarif twice during the previous Administration to undermine President Trump while his Administration planned to withdraw from the deeply flawed Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and restore the United States' ability to deter Iranian aggression. President Biden's Administration has committed to improving the JCPOA to better address Iran's malign activity; we believe that Special Envoy Kerry's relationship with Mr. Zarif and indiscretion on matters of importance to the U.S.-Israel security relationship may negatively impact the Biden Administration's ability to prevent a nuclear-armed Iran.

Iran is a serious threat to Israel, a bulwark of democracy and stability in the Middle East. It is in our national security interest to stand by our strategic ally—not sell it out to our adversaries. As United States Special Presidential Envoy for Climate, Mr. Kerry is a member of the National Security Council and has a responsibility to safeguard the interests of the United States and its closest allies. We ask that your office investigate Special Envoy Kerry's relationship with Iranian Foreign Minister Zarif and determine whether his security clearance should be revoked or not.

In particular, we request responses to the below questions by May 12, 2021:

1. Was the Department of State aware of these allegations before they were reported by the *New York Times*?

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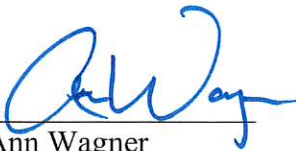
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2. What is the status of Special Envoy Kerry's security clearance?
3. What were the circumstances surrounding the alleged leak of information from Special Envoy Kerry to Mr. Zarif, including the timing of the alleged conversation?
4. What role has Special Envoy Kerry had in the formulation of the Biden Administration's policy on reentering the JCPOA?
5. Are you aware of any follow-on attacks made by Iranian proxies against Israel or its forces after Special Envoy Kerry's alleged conversation with Foreign Minister Zarif?

We look forward to your response and thank you for your attention to this concerning matter.

Sincerely,



Ann Wagner
Member of Congress



Andy Barr
Member of Congress



Lee Zeldin
Member of Congress

CC: The Honorable Antony Blinken
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U.S. Department of State
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