



One Hundred Sixteenth Congress
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Foreign Affairs
2170 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
www.foreignaffairs.house.gov

January 16, 2020

The Honorable Michael R. Pompeo
Secretary
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am renewing my invitation for you to testify before the Committee on the Administration's policy toward Iran and Iraq, and on the use of force in the region. This hearing will take place at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 29, 2020 in Room 2172 of the Rayburn House Office Building.

The purpose of the hearing is to allow the Administration to clarify for Congress and the American people its justification—both legal and policy—underpinning its use of military force against Qassem Soleimani, Shia militias, and other targets in Iraq and the region. Moreover, the Committee would like to know why the Trump Administration believes its maximum pressure campaign against Iran and recent strikes will bring Teheran back to the negotiating table and deescalate tensions in the region. The Committee would also seek your input on the future of U.S. and international efforts against ISIS in the wake of the attack on Soleimani. As the Administration's public face of this policy, your participation at this hearing is necessary so that the committee can conduct appropriate oversight and consider legislative alternatives related to the use of military force as well as the strategy and aims of American policy in Iran, Iraq, and the broader Middle East.

Committee members were disappointed that, as a former member of Congress and the Administration's most public advocate for these actions, you did not appear at a hearing on this matter held on Tuesday, January 14. I was particularly troubled by the fact that, rather than discuss urgent matters of war and peace with the State Department's committee of jurisdiction you announced after you had been invited to the January 14 hearing, you traveled to California to deliver a scripted speech on these same issues.

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This hearing deals with the most weighty issues with which our country and Congress deals, including the use of force. Therefore, I consider your testimony to be of extremely high importance and am prepared to use all legal means to ensure your attendance. I trust, however, that this will not be necessary.

Enclosed are the Committee's instructions for hearing witnesses. I ask that a biography and written testimony be sent to evan.bursey@mail.house.gov as soon as possible. If you need any additional information for this hearing, please contact Evan Bursey, Hearing Coordinator, at (202) 225-5021.

Sincerely,



ELIOT L. ENGEL
Chairman