Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 15, 2026

The Honorable Marco Rubio
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

The Honorable Scott Bessent
Secretary of the Treasury
U.S. Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20220

Dear Secretary Rubio and Secretary Bessent:

As the Chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Chairman of the House Select Committee on China, we write to you to request a determination of whether the below foreign persons meet the statutory criteria for imposition of sanctions under numerous legal authorities, including the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act.

Americans are being scammed online at enormous and still growing rates, due primarily to a network of Chinese transnational criminal organizations based in Southeast Asia.[1] These criminal syndicates have built industrial-sized compounds devoted to perpetrating complex online scams, including cryptocurrency investment scams often known as "pig butchering." These operations exploit Americans' goodwill and good intentions through romance cons and other forms of devastating psychological manipulation.

In addition, scam centers can house thousands of people who themselves are often victims of human trafficking, lured into prison-like compounds by force, fraud, or coercion and forced to scam Americans online or be subjected to serious physical harm, torture, and sometimes death. Approximately 400,000 victims from over 70 countries are trafficked inside Southeast Asian scam centers.

Corrupt senior regime and government officials in Burma, Cambodia, and Laos have turned a blind eye to this criminal activity at a shocking scale. Experts estimated that profits from cyber scamming amounted to nearly 40 percent of the combined formal GDP of the Mekong subregion in 2024.[2] Historically, law enforcement crackdowns in these countries have been largely performative. In February 2025, the Economist found that "[f]raudsters have become rich and powerful enough to corrupt entire governments, turning whole countries into the cyber-scam equivalent of narco-states" and that "[t]he

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[1] https://www.ic3.gov/AnnualReport/Reports/2025_IC3Report.pdf

[2] https://www.usip.org/sites/default/files/2024-05/ssg_transnational-crime-southeast-asia.pdf; see also https://www.unodc.org/roseap/uploads/documents/Publications/2025/Inflection_Point_2025.pdf and https://bangkok.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/wp_files/2023/08/ONLINE-SCAM-OPERATIONS-2582023.pdf

global proceeds of online fraud are probably…on a par with the illegal drugs trade as one of the world's biggest illicit industries."[3]

In Burma, the military has engaged in highly publicized operations to destroy two large scam centers, Shwe Kokko and KK Park, but authorities have simultaneously allowed scam centers to continue to proliferate along the Burma-Thai border at alarming rates.[4] The Associated Press reported in June 2026 that at least 25 new scam sites have emerged since last fall.[5]

In Cambodia, scam profits may equal 60 percent of the country's formal GDP. One report from May 2025 highlighted a clear pattern of government officials profiting from criminal scam operations, finding that "endemic corruption, reliable protection by the government, and co-perpetration by party elites are the primary enablers of Cambodia's trafficking-cybercrime nexus."[6] Another report from June 2025 found that the "Cambodian government's investigation of scamming compounds has been grossly inadequate and failed to prevent or put a stop to the human rights abuses—including slavery, human trafficking, forced labour, child labour, torture and deprivation of liberty—taking place on a mass scale across the country since 2022."[7]

While in recent months some regional governments have increased pressure on the scam industry, the financial networks, organizers, and political protection structures that enable it remain largely intact. Impunity for perpetrators remains the norm. Some scam centers have relocated, and new ones are currently being built.[8] Trafficking victims that have escaped scam centers are being imprisoned or deported as illegal immigrants instead of treated as victims of human trafficking who can provide critical witness testimony against crime bosses and networks. As the Economist reported in July, "selective enforcement has eliminated some scam compounds, but not the system that protects them."[9]

We applaud the decision of the Department of State in 2025 to designate in the Annual Trafficking in Persons Report both Cambodia and Burma as state sponsors of trafficking in persons pursuant to Section 110(b)(3)(B) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, which cites "a government pattern of human trafficking in online scam operations" in the case of Cambodia and "regular and increasing reports of corruption and complicity in these [online scam] operations by military personnel, police, local officials, and ethnic armed organizations" in the case of Burma.[10] We also strongly support President Trump's March 2026 Executive Order 14390, 'Combating Cybercrime, Fraud, and Predatory Schemes Against American Citizens,' which calls for "all necessary and appropriate steps to ensure that nations that tolerate such predatory activity shall face consequences consistent with United States law and policy, such as the limitation of foreign assistance, the application of targeted sanctions, visa restrictions, trade penalties, and, where appropriate, the immediate expulsion from the United States of foreign officials and diplomats complicit in these schemes."

The Global Magnitsky Act authorizes sanctions on any foreign person determined to have engaged in gross violations of internationally recognized human rights, has "acted as an agent of or on

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[3] https://www.economist.com/briefing/2025/02/06/online-scams-may-already-be-as-big-a-scourge-as-illegal-drugs
[4] https://www.abc.net.au/news/2026-07-21/myanmar-scam-compounds-exponential-growth/106603324
[5] https://apnews.com/article/scams-fraud-technology-ai-impostor-scam-phishing-12f549d5203abd38857c4e2f2fb1c986
[6] https://www.humanity-consultancy.com/publications/policies-and-patterns-state-abetted-transnational-crime-in-cambodia-as-a-global-security-threat
[7] https://www.amnestyusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/I-Was-Someone-Elses-Property-Slavery-Human-Trafficking-and-Torture-in-Cambodias-Scamming-Compounds.pdf
[8] https://abcnews.com/Technology/wireStory/cambodia-drafts-law-targeting-online-scam-centers-131031327
[9] https://www.economist.com/asia/2026/07/16/a-real-but-selective-crackdown-on-cambodias-scam-industry
[10] https://www.state.gov/reports/2025-trafficking-in-persons-report/

behalf of a foreign person in a matter relating to" such gross violations, is a government official responsible for or complicit in acts of significant corruption, or has materially assisted such acts of significant corruption.[11] Congress expanded this authority in 2019 to explicitly authorize Global Magnitsky sanctions on "officials of a foreign government who participate in, facilitate, or condone severe forms of trafficking in persons for significant financial gain."[12] Since 2024, other authorities have also been used to target foreign entities behind scam centers, including Burma (31 C.F.R. Part 525), Cyber-related (31 C.F.R. Part 578), and Transnational Criminal Organization (31 C.F.R. 590) sanctions.

We applaud your departments' increasingly strong action, including through sanctions, to protect the United States from this grave foreign threat. Yet more can be done. Credible information indicates the following list of foreign persons may be connected with online scam center operations within the expanding scam industry in Southeast Asia, including trafficking in persons, torture, other gross violations of internationally recognized human rights, or cybercrime. We therefore request that you investigate these persons and determine within 180 days whether they meet the statutory criteria for the imposition of sanctions under any of the four above-mentioned legal authorities:

- Benjamin Mauerberger
- Chou Bun Eng
- Deng Pibing
- Dy Vichea
- Edward Lee
- Eugene Tang
- Gabriel Tan
- Honn Sorachna
- Hun To
- Kuoch Chamrouen
- Li Xiong
- Long Dimanche
- Ma Dongli
- Michael Chiam
- Mote Thun
- Neth Savoeun
- Sar Sokha
- Su Zhongkian
- Vorapak Tanyawong
- Wang Liduan
- Yan Borith
- Yan Narong
- Yan Sathya
- Yim Leak
- Yu Lingxiong
- Zhong Baojia (also known as Wang Qiang)
- Fully Light Group of Companies, LTD
- White Sands Palace Casino

[11] 22 U.S.C. §10102(a); see also Executive Order 13818
[12] 22 U.S.C. §7108(a)(1)(D)

Americans are continuing to suffer financial ruin at the hand of sophisticated cyber-scammers who use industrial-scale human trafficking and other horrific violations of human rights to operate massive scam centers—often in plain view of and openly tolerated by foreign governments. This cannot stand. Imposing sanctions on all those on the above list determined to merit them will send a strong and necessary message of deterrence to the transnational criminals who wish Americans harm and to their foreign enablers.

We look forward to your swift action on this matter.

Sincerely,

Brian Mast
Chairman
House Committee on Foreign Affairs

John Moolenaar
Chairman
House Select Committee on China

CC: The Honorable Todd Blanche, Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice

The Honorable Markwayne Mullin, Secretary, U.S. Department of Homeland Security