

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

September 13, 2012

Secretary Leon Panetta  
Secretary of the Department of Defense  
U.S. Department of Defense  
1400 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301-1400

Secretary Hillary Clinton  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C St, NW  
Washington, DC 20520-0099

Dear Secretaries,


As the events of the last twenty-four hours in Yemen have shown, our embassies throughout the Middle East are vulnerable and they are under threat. It is clear that our security posture depends heavily on the willingness and ability of local security forces to control the crowds surrounding our embassies. In our view, that dependence – on what is clearly an unreliable and uncommitted protective force – leaves our American diplomatic and military personnel vulnerable.

Our concern is for the dutiful civil servants who represent our nation overseas. We must protect these men and women as their safety is our primary concern during these extraordinary and unpredictable times. To that end, we would like to know specifically what has been done in the last twenty-four hours to increase security at our embassies throughout the region. We also want to know precisely what the rules of engagement are for our military personnel when angry mobs, with violent extremists among them, attempt to breach the walls of our facilities overseas.

As you both well know, our embassies legally represent the sovereign territory of the United States of America. It is our belief that when individuals are allowed to breach the walls, enter our sovereign territory, and remove the flag of the United States with impunity, we send a dangerous message to extremists throughout the region that our embassies are an open and easy target.

All of these things, in our opinion, are dangerous and unacceptable. In the event that this situation continues to escalate, our people in the region need to know what the plan is – or at least that we have one.

Sincerely,



Bob Josey FL-15

Jaime Herrera Beutler WA-03

Tom Jordan FL-13

Don Young OH-3

Andre Carter F-4

Bob Young GA-11

Jim Miller FL-01

Allen Bunn FL-22

Mark Allen FL-02

Pat Woodell GA-7

Bill Lenoir FL-09

Al Wulch IL-8

Bob Latta FL-21

Scott Riggs VA-2

Steve King IA-5

Bill Johnson OH-6

Frank Lucas OK-2

Bob Latta

Tom Dwyer CO-3

Andy Adams FL-24

Paul Sutton 5th and 6th GA-12

Bill Young

John Roney

Alan Nunnelee MS-01

Jim Ruff

Lynne Jenkins

Tip Johnson MN-08

Michael A. Himm

Samuel B. M'Neil

Marsha Blackburn

Kent Starks

Pat Miller

Osbert B. Adelman

Ken Calvert

Mike McIntyre

Bob Latta

John G. Ratcliffe

Ryan A. Lujan

Steve Pearce

Patrick J. Toomey

John Culberson

Tom Alban

Howard Coble