

**Chairman Hal Rogers**  
**House Committee on Appropriations**  
**Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs**  
**Embassy Security Hearing**  
**February 14, 2013**  
**\*Opening Statement As Prepared\***

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I want to thank Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member Lowey for holding this hearing today. The attacks on United States facilities and personnel over the past several months remind us that our diplomatic and development personnel are living and working in very challenging places. Ensuring that resources are available to keep them safe is one of the most important responsibilities of this Subcommittee.

Under Secretary Kennedy, I want to welcome you. This Committee has a long history of working with you and your colleagues at the State Department to provide the funding and authorities needed to respond in a responsible way to a changing threat environment. I want to personally thank you for your many years of service.

You have held many positions at the Department, and your leadership has been key to getting us where we are today. I recall working with you and others at the Department after the embassy bombings in Kenya and Tanzania in 1998. This Committee supported new secure facility construction and upgrades all over the world, and more than 10 billion dollars has been appropriated to date.

We are committed to getting you the resources you need in the future, but you know from past experience that we will not write a blank check. We expect a comprehensive plan to address embassy security so that we understand what is needed now and what can be done over a longer period of time. I look forward to discussing this and other issues during the hearing.

I yield back to the Chairwoman.

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