

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 27, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC

Dear Mr. President:

I urge you to immediately suspend Special Envoy John Kerry's security clearance and prevent him from participating in any classified briefings until the full nature of his interactions with the Islamic Republic of Iran are investigated.

On April 25, the *New York Times* obtained a leaked audiotape on which Iran's foreign minister, Mohammad Javad Zarif, can be heard claiming that Mr. Kerry informed him that "Israel had attacked Iranian interests in Syria at least 200 times." For his part, Mr. Zarif was "astonished" by this revelation.¹

And the American people should be astonished as well. Iran is the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism, and it has consistently supported the brutal regime of the Syrian dictator Bashar al-Assad. At the same time, Israel has consistently served as the United States' strongest ally and strategic partner in the Middle East. This tiny nation, the only vibrant democracy in the region, is constantly on guard against threats to its very survival—not least of which from the terrorist group Hezbollah, an Iranian proxy.

If Mr. Kerry provided sensitive information to Iran about Israel's activities in Syria, he undermined a friend and bolstered an enemy. At best, such behavior would be despicable; at worst, it would verge on treason.

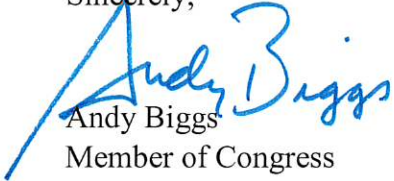
While Mr. Kerry has denied that he shared sensitive information with Mr. Zarif, his claims of innocence are especially dubious given his history of engaging with Iran *even after* his term as Secretary of State ended in 2017. As the *Washington Times* recently reported, Mr. Kerry and Robert Malley, former President Obama's Middle East advisor, met with Mr. Zarif during the Trump administration to try to undermine President Trump's Iran policy.²

¹ Farnaz Fassihi, "Iran's Foreign Minister, in Leaked Tape, Says Revolutionary Guards Set Policies," *The New York Times*, April 25, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/04/25/world/middleeast/iran-suleimani-zarif.html> (accessed April 27, 2021).

² Ben Wolfgang and Guy Taylor, "Biden Team Colluded With Iran to Foil Trump Diplomacy," *The Washington Times*, February 21, 2021, <https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2021/feb/21/john-kerry-held-backchannel-talks-iran-javad-zarif/> (accessed April 27, 2021).

In light of Sunday's revelations and everything else we have learned about Mr. Kerry's behavior and motivations, he should not have access to any sensitive materials, pending a much fuller investigation. For the sake of national security, I again urge you to act immediately in this matter.

Sincerely,



Andy Biggs
Member of Congress