

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

May 6, 2024

The Honorable Antony Blinken  
Secretary of State  
Department of State  
2201 C Street N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Blinken,

We write regarding the suspension of Mr. Robert Malley's security clearance and the status of investigative efforts related to him. We remain deeply frustrated by the Department's lack of responsiveness to our requests for information needed to conduct appropriate oversight. Due to the Department's evasiveness and lack of transparency, we have worked to glean information from other sources. Our own investigations have uncovered the following information and troubling allegations. We ask that you confirm the information we have learned.

Specifically, we understand that Mr. Malley's security clearance was suspended because he allegedly transferred classified documents to his personal email account and downloaded these documents to his personal cell phone. It is unclear to whom he intended to provide these documents, but it is believed that a hostile cyber actor was able to gain access to his email and/or phone and obtain the downloaded information.

To ensure we have a complete understanding of these events, we request immediate answers to the questions below. You may submit a classified addendum to provide certain details where appropriate, but please note which questions you intend to address in a classified format.

1. Can you confirm that the Bureau of Diplomatic Security (DS) suspended Mr. Malley's clearance because he improperly transferred classified U.S. government information to a personal email account and/or device that is not authorized to store such information?
2. How many classified documents did Mr. Malley improperly transfer, and what were the contents? What was the highest classification of the transferred documents?
3. Did Mr. Malley send or attempt to send these documents to anyone who lacked the proper clearance? Were any of these individuals affiliated with the Iranian government or the Iran Experts Initiative?

4. When and how did DS become aware that classified information was compromised? When did DS notify Department leadership and when did Department leadership inform the White House that Mr. Malley was suspected for mishandling classified information?
5. When did DS or the FBI first contact Mr. Malley about his potential misuse of classified information? Was he truthful and cooperative with law enforcement?
6. Had Mr. Malley previously received any warnings about his handling of classified information before the actions that caused the Department to suspend his clearance?
7. Can you confirm that a malign cyber actor gained access to Mr. Malley's personal email and/or phone?
8. Is the alleged cyber actor affiliated with the IRGC, Iranian military, or intelligence services?
9. When and how did the cyber actor compromise Mr. Malley's account?
10. Did the compromise of Mr. Malley's device enable subsequent compromise of other senior officials at the State Department, National Security Council, or other agencies? How did the malign cyber actor utilize the information obtained from Mr. Malley?
11. Has the FBI or DOJ recommended any criminal charges against Mr. Malley? Is the FBI investigation still ongoing or has it been completed? What role did the Department play in supporting this investigation?
12. Did you or any other senior administration officials at State, the White House, the Department of Justice, or any other agency play any role in advocating for or against any criminal charges?
13. Has the Department or any other federal entity conducted an impact assessment of the damage to national security caused by Mr. Malley's mishandling of classified information?
14. What has been the impact on the administration's Iran policy? Did it reveal sensitive details about these negotiations or about other U.S. diplomatic engagement with Iran?
15. Did Mr. Malley's alleged infractions affect the conduct of Iran policy, to include nuclear discussions in Vienna or the public perception of those negotiations, as well as proximity talks in Oman that led to the release of Americans in exchange for loose nuclear and regional terrorism assurances?
16. Have you or any other senior State Department official ever sought to reinstate Mr. Malley's security clearance or access to State Department networks or systems? If so, when, and what was the justification?

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17. Does the Biden Administration have any plans to allow Mr. Malley to return to the State Department or any other federal agency?
18. How much of the information covered in this letter did you and senior State Department or other Biden Administration officials know when you responded to congressional requests for information? For instance, were you aware of this information when you responded to our letters from July 18, 2023 or October 6, 2023?
19. Were Under Secretary Bass and DS Assistant Secretary Smith aware of this information when they briefed Chairman Cardin and Ranking Member Risch on January 10, 2024?

The allegations we have been privy to are extremely troubling and demand immediate answers. These allegations have substantial impact on our national security and people should be held accountable swiftly and strongly. We look forward to your immediate response.

Sincerely,



JAMES E. RISCH  
Ranking Member  
Senate Foreign Relations Committee



MICHAEL T. McCAUL  
Chairman  
House Foreign Affairs Committee

CC: The Honorable Sandra J. Lewis, Acting Inspector General, U.S. Department of State