



One Hundred Sixteenth Congress
Committee on Homeland Security
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

July 18, 2019

The Honorable Michael C. Stenger
Sergeant at Arms
United States Senate
U.S. Capitol, Room S-151
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Stenger,

I am following up on my July 15th letter given President Trump's continued attacks on four Members of Congress. Last night at a campaign rally, the President once again used inflammatory rhetoric about the four Congresswomen, spurring the crowd to chant "send her back" in reference to Somali-born Rep. Ilhan Omar (MN-5).¹

In my earlier letter, I urged you, as Chairman, to convene an emergency meeting of the United States Capitol Police Board. I requested that the meeting occur within 48 hours of the letter and that I receive a classified readout of the meeting.

Just one day after sending that letter, Capitol Police Chief Steven Sund testified before the House Administration Committee that threats against Members of Congress are increasing.² Following that hearing, House Sergeant at Arms Paul Irving stated that as Members become more prominent in the media, his office will provide enhanced support to them.³ Since last night's Trump campaign rally, the hashtag #SendHerBack is trending on Twitter with tweets referring to Rep. Omar as a terrorist sympathizer and calls for her deportation despite being a U.S. citizen.⁴

¹ Taylor, Jessica, and Rascoe, Ayesha. "Trump Attacks Congresswomen At N.C. Rally, As Crowd Chants 'Send Her Back'" 17 July 2019, <https://www.npr.org/2019/07/17/742896827/trump-attacks-congresswomen-at-n-c-rally-as-crowd-chants-send-her-back>.

² Marquette, Chris. "Threats against members increasing, Capitol Police chief says" 16 July 2019, <https://www.rollcall.com/news/congress/threats-against-members-increasing-capitol-police-chief-sund-says>.

³ *Id.*

⁴ https://twitter.com/search?q=%23sendherback&src=typed_query

Earlier this week, a well-known White nationalist platform praised the President's targeting of Rep. Omar and other Members.⁵ The President's attacks on Members of Congress have emboldened people to pursue acts of violence toward public officials before.⁶ I strongly believe that the Police Board must act swiftly to address heightened threats to these and other Members of Congress.

To that end, I reiterate my request that the Police Board hold an emergency meeting and re-examine the Board's approach to analyzing the risk environment, thresholds for enhanced security for certain targeted Members, and information sharing about threat streams with law enforcement in such Members' districts, and that I receive a classified readout from the meeting. I would urge you to work with my staff to set up a time prior to July 25th for me to receive the classified briefing.

I thank you for your immediate attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,



BENNIE G. THOMPSON
Chairman

CC: The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker, United States House of Representatives
The Honorable Steven A. Sund, Chief, United States Capitol Police
The Honorable Paul D. Irving, Sergeant at Arms, United States House of Representatives
The Honorable Christine A. Merdon, Acting Architect of the Capitol, Architect of the Capitol
The Honorable Karen Bass, Chair, Congressional Black Caucus
The Honorable Joaquin Castro, Chair, Congressional Hispanic Caucus
The Honorable Mark Pocan, Co-Chair, Congressional Progressive Caucus
The Honorable Pramila Jayapal, Co-Chair, Congressional Progressive Caucus
The Honorable Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Representative, 14th Congressional District, New York
The Honorable Ilhan Omar, Representative, 5th Congressional District, Minnesota
The Honorable Ayanna Pressley, Representative, 7th Congressional District, Massachusetts
The Honorable Rashida Tlaib, Representative, 13th Congressional District, Michigan
The Honorable Maxine Waters, Representative, 43rd Congressional District, California

⁵ Anglin, Andrew. "Trump Tells Brown Communist Democrats to Leave America, Return to Their Sh*tholes" 15 July 2019, <https://dailystormer.name/trump-tells-brown-communist-democrats-to-leave-america-return-to-their-shitholes/>.

⁶ Baker, Peter. "Trump Fans the Flames of a Racial Fire" 14 July 2019, www.nytimes.com/2019/07/14/us/politics/trump-twitter-race.html?action=click&module=TopStories&pgtype=Homepage.