



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

April 29, 2026

The Honorable Andrew R. Garbarino  
Chairman  
Committee on Homeland Security  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Garbarino:

Since the start of the war with Iran, there have been at least four violent extremist attacks in the U.S., and the terrorist threat environment across the country remains high. Yet, Congress and the American people are in the dark about those threats. We write with urgency to request that the Committee hold a hearing with Trump administration officials on the U.S. government's counterterrorism activities.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has not issued a National Terrorism Advisory System Bulletin in nearly a year, and the White House has allegedly blocked U.S. intelligence agencies from warning law enforcement across the country about rising threats to the homeland tied to the war with Iran.<sup>1</sup> DHS has also decided that it will not implement the 2021 *National Strategy for Countering Domestic Terrorism*, simply because it was issued under the Biden administration<sup>2</sup> but the Trump administration has yet to publish any replacement counterterrorism strategy.<sup>3</sup> As Members of the Committee on Homeland Security, it is our responsibility to receive a full terrorism threat picture and understand how the administration is working to protect Americans from terrorist attacks.

To date, the Committee has failed to conduct proper oversight of the Trump administration's efforts to reduce the vulnerability of the U.S. to terrorism. On June 26, 2025, we wrote to then-Chairman Mark Green requesting a hearing to receive testimony from Thomas Fugate, Director of

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<sup>1</sup> Shawn Cohen and Phillip Nieto, *Exclusive: White House blocks intelligence report warning of rising US homeland terror threat linked to Iran war*, DAILY MAIL (March 6, 2026), <https://www.dailymail.com/news/article-15622933/White-House-blocks-warning-rising-threat-linked-Iran-war.html>.

<sup>2</sup> U.S. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE, *Domestic Terrorism: Additional Actions Needed to Implement an Effective National Strategy* (April 9, 2025), <https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-25-107030>.

<sup>3</sup> Hannah Allam, *The Counterterrorism Czar Without a Counterterrorism Plan*, PROPUBLICA (April 21, 2026), <https://www.propublica.org/article/sebastian-gorka-trump-counterterrorism-czar-iran-terrorism>.

DHS's Center for Prevention Programs and Partnerships (CP3). That request went unanswered, and Mr. Fugate has not made a single appearance before Congress to our knowledge. DHS has also ignored repeated requests for information related to CP3.

Further, Kash Patel, the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), was a no-show at the Committee's annual worldwide threats hearing in December and has flouted several requests for information from Democratic Members of the Committee related to FBI's counterterrorism activities. Those requests include at least two letters that were sent in April 2025 and March 2026 inquiring about the FBI's firing of personnel and cancellation of programs dedicated to countering terrorism, and a briefing request from December 2025 to understand how the FBI is implementing *National Security Presidential Memorandum (NSPM-7): Countering Domestic Terrorism and Organized Political Violence* in a manner consistent with constitutional rights. The administration owes the Committee and the public a frank assessment of threats to the homeland so that we may take necessary precautions to better protect the country.

The Trump administration's reduction of counterterrorism personnel and resources and failure to engage the Committee regarding these actions gives us deep concern about the U.S. government's ability to detect and deter terrorist incidents. Our concern is compounded by the apparent counterterrorism leadership vacuum within the Trump administration. Last month, Joe Kent resigned from his position as the Director of the National Counterterrorism Center in protest of President Trump's war of choice with Iran, who Kent said, "posed no imminent threat to our nation."<sup>4</sup> Additionally, Kash Patel has reportedly been unreachable and unstable during high-profile terrorist incidents and investigations.<sup>5</sup> At DHS, a Deputy Assistant Secretary for Counterterrorism was referred to the Office of Inspector General for soliciting thousands of dollars to support her luxurious lifestyle, which the complainant believes poses a national security risk as financial stress or greed presents blackmail and coercion vulnerabilities.<sup>6</sup> Moreover, in the White House, Sebastian Gorka – who struggled to obtain security clearance during the first Trump administration due to his ties to a far-right, Hungarian extremist group – is serving as Counterterrorism Coordinator.<sup>7</sup> It would appear that there are no adults in the counterterrorism decision-making room while we are at war with the leading state sponsor of terrorism, and that is, frankly, alarming.

As you know, DHS was established in the wake of the September 11, 2001, attacks with the primary mission of protecting Americans from terrorism threats. Over the years, this Committee has worked tirelessly – on a bipartisan basis and across administrations – to strengthen counterterrorism systems to ensure a 9/11-like attack never happens again. It is evident that the Trump administration has lost sight of this duty. We urge you, as Chairman, to keep focus and compel the administration to come before the Committee to answer for how it is implementing the

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<sup>4</sup> Joe Kent, X (March 17, 2026), <https://x.com/joekent16jan19/status/2033897242986209689>.

<sup>5</sup> Sarah Fitzpatrick, *The FBI Director is MIA*, THE ATLANTIC (April 17, 2026), [https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/2026/04/kash-patel-fbi-director-drinking-absences/686839/?gift=AwR\\_TGzSRSLueG5W7xh0ResXNy-HwbaDp8IodBg6FCU](https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/2026/04/kash-patel-fbi-director-drinking-absences/686839/?gift=AwR_TGzSRSLueG5W7xh0ResXNy-HwbaDp8IodBg6FCU).

<sup>6</sup> Ryan King and Josh Christenson, *DHS counterterror official hit with sugar baby accusations after angry ex claims she bilked \$40K out of him*, NEW YORK POST (April 22, 2026), <https://nypost.com/2026/04/22/us-news/dhs-counterterror-big-denies-pushing-hinge-date-to-blow-40k-in-sugar-daddy-setup-report/>.

<sup>7</sup> *Supra* note 3.

The Honorable Andrew R. Garbarino

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counterterrorism programs and activities Congress has authorized and funded. The consequences of a failure to ensure this accountability are grave.

We look forward to working with you to schedule this critical hearing without delay.

Sincerely,



Bennie G. Thompson  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Homeland Security



Seth Magaziner  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Counterterrorism and Intelligence

cc: The Honorable August Pfluger  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Counterterrorism and Intelligence