

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

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January 26, 2022

The Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney  
Chairwoman  
Committee on Oversight and Reform  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Maloney:

On January 19, 2022—during a public hearing—you told us: “If you would like another [hearing], request it, and we will have another [hearing] on Afghanistan.”<sup>1</sup> You further claimed:

On Afghanistan, we have held a briefing with the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan [Reconstruction] (SIGAR), we have had a classified briefing at the request of the minority with the Defense Department, State Department, [the Department of Homeland Security], and [the] Intelligence Community, and we had another one in the National [Security] Subcommittee with Chairman Lynch.<sup>2</sup>

To be clear: (1) Committee Republicans requested the briefing with SIGAR, (2) the classified briefing did not satisfy our request for a “hearing,” and (3) the scope of the National Security Subcommittee hearing was changed at the last minute to no longer specifically include Afghanistan.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *Price Gouging in Military Contracts: New Inspector General Report Exposes Excess Profit Obtained by TransDigm Group: Hearing Before H. Comm. on Oversight & Reform*, 117<sup>th</sup> Cong. (Jan. 19, 2022) (statement by Hon. Carolyn B. Maloney, Chairwoman).

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

<sup>3</sup> Letter from Hon. James Comer, Ranking Member, H. Comm. on Oversight & Reform, and Hon. Glenn Grothman, Ranking Member, Subcomm. on Nat'l Sec., H. Comm. on Oversight & Reform, to Hon. John Sopko, Special Inspector Gen. for Afghanistan Reconstruction (Aug. 19, 2021); Letter from Hon. James Comer, et. al., Ranking Member, H. Comm. on Oversight & Reform, to Hon. Carolyn Maloney, Chairwoman, H. Comm. on Oversight & Reform, and Hon. Stephen Lynch, Chairman, Subcomm. on Nat'l Sec., H. Comm. on Oversight & Reform (Aug. 18, 2021); Letter from Hon. Stephen Lynch, Subcomm. on Nat'l Sec., H. Comm. on Oversight & Reform, to John Godfrey, Acting Coordinator for Counterterrorism, U.S. Dep't of State (Oct. 6, 2021) (stated scope “examine the continued threat posed by Al Qaeda, the Islamic State of Iraq and Stria and its regional affiliates, ad other foreign terrorist organizations following the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan.”); Memorandum to Members, H. Comm. on Oversight & Reform, from Hon. Carolyn Maloney, Chairwoman, H. Comm. on Oversight & Reform (Dec. 2, 2021) (stated scope “examine the continued threat posed by al Qaeda, the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), their regional affiliates, and other foreign terrorist organizations.”).

Unfortunately, the Committee has not held a single public event on the disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan. Not one. The complete lack of oversight is conspicuously surprising considering the Committee's consistent and bipartisan engagement on Afghanistan—including your own—prior to the Biden Administration's botched withdrawal. Rather than pursue transparency and accountability, Committee Democrats have remained idle. Meanwhile, the situation in Afghanistan and the region continues to worsen:

- Americans—abandoned by the Biden Administration—are still stranded in Afghanistan and the United Arab Emirates;<sup>4</sup>
- The Taliban are causing a mass hunger and humanitarian crisis, which threatens to kill millions;<sup>5</sup>
- The Taliban continue to rapidly dismantle gains in the rights of women and girls;<sup>6</sup>
- Random acts of violence are consuming daily life;<sup>7</sup> and,
- The Taliban are attempting to install friendly envoys in embassies worldwide;<sup>8</sup>

Committee Democrats must step up, do their job, and hold the Biden Administration accountable, even if it is politically inconvenient. Pursuant to your statement above, we therefore again request a full committee—public and in-person—hearing on the Biden Administration's withdrawal from Afghanistan and the aftermath. Furthermore, we request that you call the following witnesses to testify:

1. The Honorable Antony Blinken  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of State
2. The Honorable Lloyd Austin  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Defense
3. Mr. Jake Sullivan  
Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs  
The White House

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<sup>4</sup> The Editorial Board, *The Americans Stuck in Afghanistan*, WALL ST. J. (Dec. 19, 2021); Ryan Mills, *American Citizen Stranded in UAE with Pregnant Wife after Botched Afghanistan Evacuation*, NAT. REV. (Jan. 19, 2022).

<sup>5</sup> Hannah Bloch, *For many Afghans, winter is forcing a cruel choice of whether to eat or stay warm*, NPR (Jan. 6, 2022).

<sup>6</sup> Ahmad Mukhtar, *AS Taliban robs Afghan women and girls of work, school and safety, the most vulnerable "have nowhere to go"*, CBS (Sept. 22, 2021).

<sup>7</sup> *Mortar shell explosion kills 9 children in eastern Afghanistan*, AL JAZEERA (Jan. 10, 2022).

<sup>8</sup> Margherita Stancati, *Taliban intensify Efforts to Take Control of Afghanistan's Overseas Embassies*, WALL ST. J. (Jan. 18, 2022).

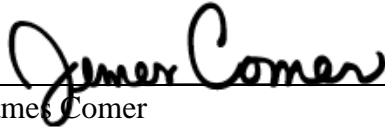
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Thank you for your prompt reply and we look forward to you keeping your word and convening this very important hearing.

Sincerely,



James Comer  
Ranking Member



Glenn Grothman  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on National Security

cc: The Honorable Stephen Lynch, Chairman  
Subcommittee on National Security