

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

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<https://oversight.house.gov>

MEMORANDUM

September 17, 2020

To: Members of the Subcommittee on National Security

Fr: Committee Staff

Re: Hearing on “Examining the Trump Administration’s Afghanistan Strategy, Part 2”

On **Tuesday, September 22, 2020, at 11:00 a.m., in room 2154 of the Rayburn House Office Building**, the Subcommittee will hold a hearing to examine the Trump Administration’s efforts to bring an end to the war in Afghanistan.¹ Members can also participate via WebEx.

I. HEARING PURPOSE

The hearing will examine the Trump Administration’s strategy in Afghanistan, including the February 29, 2020, U.S.-Taliban peace agreement and ongoing efforts to facilitate intra-Afghan reconciliation.² The hearing will also address the implications of these diplomatic negotiations for the Afghan people, regional stability, and U.S. national security.

Since August 2019, the Subcommittee has invited the Department of State and the Department of Defense (DOD) to appear at multiple briefings and hearings to testify about the war in Afghanistan—often on a bipartisan basis.³ After representatives from DOD and the State Department refused to appear before the Subcommittee for more than a year, on August 31, 2020, Subcommittee Chairman Stephen F. Lynch, Chairwoman Carolyn Maloney, and 13

¹ Department of State, Agreement for Bringing Peace to Afghanistan (Feb. 29, 2020) (online at www.state.gov/agreement-for-bringing-peace-to-afghanistan/).

² Department of State, Agreement for Bringing Peace to Afghanistan (Feb. 29, 2020) (online at www.state.gov/agreement-for-bringing-peace-to-afghanistan/).

³ See e.g. Letter from Chairman Stephen F. Lynch and Ranking Member Jody B. Hice, Subcommittee on National Security, Committee on Oversight and Reform, to Secretary Mark T. Esper, Department of Defense, and Secretary Michael R. Pompeo, Department of State (Aug. 12, 2019) (online at <https://oversight.house.gov/sites/democrats.oversight.house.gov/files/2019-08-12.SFL%20Hice%20to%20Esper-DOD%20Pompeo-State%20re%20Afghanistan%20Withdrawal.pdf>); Letter from Chairman Stephen F. Lynch and Ranking Member Jody B. Hice, Subcommittee on National Security, Committee on Oversight and Reform, to Secretary Mark T. Esper, Department of Defense, and Secretary Michael R. Pompeo, Department of State (Feb. 28, 2020).

Democratic Committee Members wrote a letter demanding testimony from the Trump Administration about the U.S. strategy in Afghanistan.⁴

II. WITNESSES

Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad

Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation
Department of State

David F. Helvey

Performing the Duties of Assistant Secretary of Defense for Indo-Pacific Security Affairs
Department of Defense

Staff contacts: Dan Rebnord and Matthew Patane at (202) 225-5051.

⁴ Letter from Chairwoman Carolyn B. Maloney, Chairman Stephen F. Lynch, Subcommittee on National Security, and Democratic Members, Committee on Oversight and Reform, to Secretary Mark T. Esper, Department of Defense, and Secretary Michael R. Pompeo, Department of State (Aug. 31, 2020) (online at <https://oversight.house.gov/news/press-releases/national-security-subcommittee-demands-testimony-from-administration-officials>).