

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-3219**

February 7, 2023

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Antony J. Blinken  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20520

The Honorable Janet L. Yellen  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Treasury  
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20220

The Honorable Gina M. Raimondo  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear President Biden, Secretary Blinken, Secretary Yellen, and Secretary Raimondo:

We are deeply concerned by reports that Iranian-made drones recovered in Ukraine contain parts that were manufactured in the United States. We ask that you develop a coordinated, whole-of-government approach to interrupt Iran’s supply chains, shut down shell companies used by adversaries to evade sanctions, and pressure allies to crack down on unscrupulous distributors in Europe and Asia. We understand that this process is already underway, at least in part, and request a timely briefing on any progress that has been made and plans going forward.

Iran has provided hundreds of drones to Russia since August 2022.<sup>1</sup> The Shahed-136 and Shahed-131, one-way attack unmanned aerial vehicles also known as “suicide drones,” have terrorized Ukrainian civilians since their introduction into the conflict.<sup>2</sup> Iran has also delivered to Russia the Mohajer-6, a surveillance drone capable of conducting precision air-to-ground strikes.<sup>3</sup>

In recent weeks, U.S. intelligence agencies confirmed earlier reports that Iranian-made drones contain components manufactured in the United States, Europe, and Asia.<sup>4</sup> A recent report by Conflict Armament Research studied more than 500 components from Iranian-made drones and unexploded precision-guided munitions that were recovered in Ukraine. The report determined

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<sup>1</sup> “US: Iran Now Russia's Top Arms Source.” United States Institute of Peace, December 9, 2022.  
<https://iranprimer.usip.org/blog/2022/dec/09/us-iran-now-russias-top-arms-source-0>.

<sup>2</sup> “Explainer: Russia Deploys Iranian Drones.” United States Institute of Peace, December 12, 2022.  
<https://iranprimer.usip.org/index.php/blog/2022/oct/12/explainer-russia-deploys-iranian-drones>

<sup>3</sup> “Iran Military Power.” Defense Intelligence Agency, 2019.  
[https://www.dia.mil/Portals/110/Images/News/Military\\_Powers\\_Publications/Iran\\_Military\\_Power\\_LR.pdf](https://www.dia.mil/Portals/110/Images/News/Military_Powers_Publications/Iran_Military_Power_LR.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> “Iranian Weapons Built With Western Semiconductors Despite Sanctions.” *New York Times*, November 22, 2022.  
<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/11/22/us/drones-russia-iran.html>

that 82 percent of their parts were manufactured by companies based in the United States.<sup>5</sup> Ukrainian intelligence services estimate that 75 percent of the components of Iranian-made drones deployed in the conflict are U.S.-made.<sup>6</sup>

On January 6, 2023, the Office of Foreign Assets Control announced new sanctions on firms involved in the production and delivery of Iranian drones to Russia.<sup>7</sup> This is a small but promising first step in what must become a concentrated, sustained effort. Just as the United States and its international allies rallied to implement a comprehensive sanctions regime to combat Iran's ballistic missile program, it must do the same to degrade the regime's precision-strike capabilities.

Iran's fleet of drones have far-reaching implications beyond the war against Ukraine. These weapons provide Iran and its proxies with yet another tool to project power in the region, threatening our troops, key allies, and freedom of navigation.<sup>8</sup>

We appreciate your attention to this important issue. Immediate action is necessary not only to disrupt Iran's burgeoning relationship with Russia, but also to blunt Iran's ability to undermine international law, project power across the Middle East, and threaten U.S. servicemembers.

Sincerely,



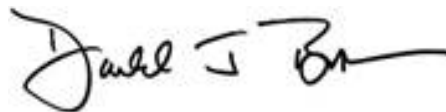
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<sup>5</sup> "Dissecting Iranian drones employed by Russia in Ukraine." Conflict Armament Research, November 2022. <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/7a394153c87947d8a602c3927609f572>

<sup>6</sup> "Ukrainian Analysis Identifies Western Supply Chain Behind Iran's Drones." *Wall Street Journal*, November 16, 2022. <https://www.wsj.com/articles/ukrainian-analysis-identifies-western-supply-chain-behind-irans-drones-11668575332>

<sup>7</sup> "Treasury Sanctions Suppliers of Iranian UAVs Used to Target Ukraine's Civilian Infrastructure." United States Department of the Treasury, January 6, 2023. <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/jy1182>

<sup>8</sup> "Multiple Drone Attack on Coalition Outpost in Syria." U.S. Central Command, January 20, 2023. <https://www.centcom.mil/MEDIA/PRESS-RELEASES/Press-Release-View/Article/3273013/multiple-drone-attack-on-coalition-outpost-in-syria/>



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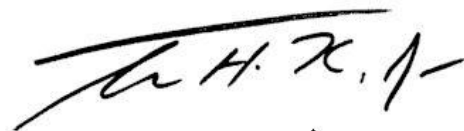
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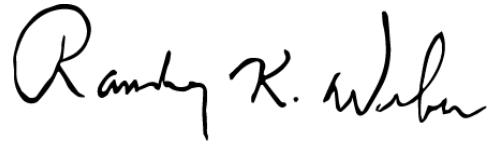
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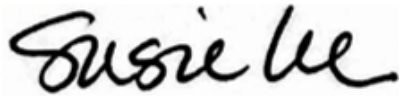
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