Dear Secretary Mattis and Secretary Tillerson,

We write to request information related to the operational conduct of the Royal Saudi Air Force (RSAF) in Yemen.

As you know, the previous Administration made the decision in December 2016 to halt a planned sale of precision-guided munitions (PGM) to Saudi Arabia due to concerns over widespread civilian casualties and significant deficiencies in RSAF’s targeting capabilities.¹ This decision was the result of an internal review launched after the United Nations and a number of human rights organizations documented a series of RSAF airstrikes on civilian targets, including hospitals, markets, schools, a wedding and a large funeral. According to recent reports, however, the State Department has now reversed course and removed the suspension on these PGM sales.²

In light of this reported policy change, and with the possibility of an arms sale that Congress will have the opportunity to review in the near future, we believe it is necessary to assess the RSAF’s current operational conduct. The possession alone of PGMs does not indicate sophisticated targeting capabilities. It is in our national security interest – as well as that of our Saudi partners – to ensure that the RSAF has the ability to avoid civilian casualties before the U.S. sells them any additional air-to-ground munitions.

We therefore request that the Department of Defense report to Congress on the following within 15 days of receipt of this letter.

1. Is the Royal Saudi Air Force abiding by U.S.-provided “no-strike” lists? As part of this assessment, we request details of:

   a. Any violations of the lists from the delivery of the lists until now.

b. Any Department of Defense actions taken in response to Royal Saudi Air Force violations of the U.S. provided no-strike lists or other confirmed airstrikes on civilian targets.

c. Details on the no-strike lists, including the number and types of targets, the dates of delivery of each distinct list to the Saudi Arabia-led Coalition, and the frequency with which the overall list is updated.

2. Please assess the ability of the Royal Saudi Air Force to effectively employ precision-guided munitions in a way that takes full advantage of the weapon’s capabilities to ensure the minimum collateral damage.

3. What progress has the Royal Saudi Air Force made in improving its targeting capabilities from the beginning of the conflict until now? Please provide requisite data to justify the assessment.

4. What U.S. military personnel are currently working with the Coalition Command, and what are their specific roles?

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

__Ted W. Lieu__  
Member of Congress

__Walter Jones__  
Member of Congress

__John Conyers, Jr.__  
Member of Congress

__Ted S. Yoho, DVM__  
Member of Congress

__David N. Cicilline__  
Member of Congress

__Ro Khanna__  
Member of Congress

__Seth Moulton__  
Member of Congress

__Adam B. Schiff__  
Member of Congress
cc:

Amb. Tina Kaidanow, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, U.S. Department of State

Lt. Gen. H.R. McMaster, National Security Advisor to the President of the United States