

United States Senate

March 15, 2024

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Last week, General Eric Kurilla, Commander of U.S. Central Command, testified before the Senate Armed Services Committee that recent U.S. strikes on Iranian proxies in the region “sent a very strong deterrent message” citing the absence of an attack for 32 days in Iraq or Syria. As General Kurilla also noted, however, “deterrence is always temporary” and Houthi terrorists in Yemen have not been as effectively deterred.

In fact, the Houthis grow bolder by the day.

On Friday, the Iranian-backed Houthis once again launched a massive barrage of 28 drones and missiles in the Red Sea, trying to sink American ships. These terrorists are trying every day to kill U.S. sailors from places like Alaska and Delaware, and at some point, they might succeed—one of their missiles could sneak past our missile defenses and sink a vessel. Iranian spy ships are providing the Houthis with targeting information to sink American ships and kill U.S. sailors and Marines.

Yet, Iran is facing zero consequences for this collusion.

Just as I did in the Senate Armed Services Committee hearing last week, I call for you, Mr. President, to take real action on deterring Iran before it’s too late. Tell Iran that the next Houthi missile or drone launched at an American ship will result in the sinking of Iran’s spy ships that target our Navy. With all due respect, that this hasn’t already happened, with so many American lives on the line is the continuation of a clearly failed policy of appeasement.

If we ever expect Tehran to call off its terrorist proxies and make deterrence more than a temporary respite, Iran must be made to pay a price.

Sincerely,



Dan Sullivan
United States Senator