

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

August 7, 2026

The Honorable Marco Rubio
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

The Honorable Scott Bessent
Secretary of the Treasury
U.S. Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20220

Secretary Rubio and Secretary Bessent:

We write to express our grave concerns regarding the recent “Ministerial on the Resurgence of Political Terrorism” hosted by the Department of State, as well as subsequent administrative directives targeting alleged “left-wing violent extremism” under National Security Presidential Memorandum 7 (NSPM-7).

Specifically, we are alarmed by the Department of State’s new ideologically driven visa restriction policy and the Department of Treasury’s pledged financial enforcement mechanisms directed against civil society.¹ These policies dramatically escalate the Administration’s deliberate and targeted attempts to silence any person, organization, or institution critical of its policies and abuses of power on a global scale. We are deeply troubled by public commitments to deploy the full force of the State and Treasury Departments against loosely defined “far-left networks” and their alleged “enablers” and urge you to immediately reverse course.

Rather than relying on law enforcement data — which consistently identifies right-wing violent extremists and white supremacist organizations as the predominant domestic terrorism threat² — this Administration has instead taken actions that manufacture an ideological enemy. White House Deputy Chief of Staff Stephen Miller went so far as to describe leftists as “the enemies of civilization” and a “cancer” that can “destroy a society” if not dismantled.³ Secretary Bessent named leftists as a terrorist threat on par with ISIS and al-Qaeda, declaring: “The unified front between international Marxism and the radical Islamic movement need not share the same ultimate vision to share the same immediate enemy of free and self-governing societies.”⁴ The Department of State’s new visa restriction policy bars foreign nationals from entry who “finance, recruit, incite, or otherwise enable terrorist, violent, and criminal Far-Left Terrorist networks” and defines “Far-Left Terrorist networks” as those with explicit aims to “undermine the political foundations of free and self-governing societies.”⁵ This rhetoric and policy embody the core characteristics of fascist statecraft—using the security apparatus of the state to repress and criminalize political opponents and dissenters rather than specific violent acts.

¹ U.S. Department of State. “Visa Restriction Policy Targeting Far-Left Terrorist and Other Aligned Groups.” July 16, 2026. <https://www.state.gov/releases/office-of-the-spokesperson/2026/07/visa-restriction-policy-targeting-far-left-terrorist-and-other-aligned-groups>; U.S. Department of the Treasury. “Secretary Bessent Delivers Remarks Before the Ministerial on the Resurgence of Political Terrorism.” July 16, 2026. <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/sb0566>.

² Laura Barron-Lopez and Saher Khan. “Far-right violence a growing threat and law enforcement’s top domestic terrorism concern.” PBS News. September 5, 2023. <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/far-right-violence-a-growing-threat-and-law-enforcements-top-domestic-terrorism-concern>.

³ U.S. Department of State. “Secretary of State Marco Rubio with Secretary of the Treasury Scott Bessent, White House Deputy of Staff and Homeland Security Advisor Stephen Miller, and Deputy Secretary of State Christopher Landau at the Opening of the Ministerial on the Resurgence of Political Terrorism.” July 16, 2026. <https://www.state.gov/releases/office-of-the-spokesperson/2026/07/remarks-at-the-opening-of-the-ministerial-on-the-resurgence-of-political-terrorism>.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ U.S. Department of State. “Visa Restriction Policy Targeting Far-Left Terrorist and Other Aligned Groups.” July 16, 2026. <https://www.state.gov/releases/office-of-the-spokesperson/2026/07/visa-restriction-policy-targeting-far-left-terrorist-and-other-aligned-groups>.

Seeking to export an ideological mandate to more than 65 countries creates a dangerous precedent that authoritarian governments will eagerly exploit to delegitimize and criminalize political dissent and justify their own crackdowns on peaceful opposition. Foreign nationals fleeing political persecution abroad — including persecution by governments that label peaceful dissidents “leftist terrorists” to discredit them — may find themselves barred from the United States under the very same vague and subjective standard. Expanding transnational intelligence-sharing under this ill-defined and hyper-politicized definition of violent extremism opens the door to transnational repression — including cross-border monitoring and harassment — of international activists, researchers, and political dissidents, as well as potentially any individual within their networks. We also risk fracturing critical alliances with governments whose own laws strictly protect political speech, civil liberties, and human rights — protections that these very policies are undermining here at home.

Given the serious constitutional and ethical concerns raised by these policies, we ask that you respond in writing to the following questions and requests by August 18, 2026:

1. What is the Department's specific statutory or constitutional legal authority for implementing NSPM-7's framework through visa restrictions, given that Congress has never enacted a domestic terrorism designation analogous to the Foreign Terrorist Organization list, and given that NSPM-7 was issued as a presidential memorandum without congressional authorization or review?
2. Please provide any legal guidance the Department relied upon, including opinions from the Office of Legal Counsel, in determining that NSPM-7 authorizes the visa restrictions announced on July 16, 2026.
3. Please provide the Department's operative definitions of “Far-Left Terrorist” and “other aligned groups,” including the specific criteria, evidentiary standards, and internal review process consular officers will use to determine whether an applicant has “engaged in or materially supported acts of terrorism, violent crime, economic sabotage, or assisted far-left networks with any of these acts.” Please clarify whether this definition could encompass participation in lawful protest, mutual aid work, humanitarian assistance, journalism, academic research or publication, political advocacy, the provision of legal services, or funding/donating to 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4) organizations engaged in such activities.
4. What specific organizations has the Department already designated or plans to designate as “Far-Left Terrorist” or “aligned” groups under this policy, and what evidentiary standard and process was used to reach each designation?
5. Given documented data on the prevalence of far-right and white supremacist violence in the United States, why does this policy, and the broader NSPM-7 framework, contain no parallel visa restriction mechanism targeting foreign nationals who support far-right or white supremacist violent networks? Please explain the analytical or evidentiary basis, if any, for treating far-left networks as a unique or disproportionate threat.
6. What safeguards has the Department put in place to ensure that consular officers do not deny visas based on an applicant's protected speech, protest activity, or associational ties that fall short of material support for violence, consistent with the First Amendment and with U.S. obligations under international human rights law?
7. What avenues for appeal or review will be available to individuals denied visas under this policy, and how will the Department ensure due process for applicants who dispute the government's characterization of their

conduct or associations — particularly given that visa denials are ordinarily shielded from judicial review under the doctrine of consular nonreviewability?

8. Has the Department assessed how this policy will interact with existing asylum and refugee protections for individuals fleeing persecution by foreign governments that label peaceful dissidents, journalists, or activists as “leftist terrorists” to justify that persecution? What guidance, if any, has been issued to consular and asylum officers to distinguish protected refugees from the conduct this policy targets?

9. Is the Department requesting or using lists provided by foreign governments that target political dissidents, opposition figures, or human rights defenders under the guise of “countering left-wing violent extremism”?

10. Is the Department coordinating with the Treasury Department or other federal agencies on financial measures — including asset freezes, sanctions, or efforts to restrict banking access (“debanking”) — against domestic or foreign nonprofits, civil society organizations, or human rights groups in connection with NSPM-7 or this ministerial? If so, please describe the criteria and legal authority for any such measures.

11. Has the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network issued, or does it plan to issue, formal or informal advisories instructing financial institutions to apply enhanced due diligence or file Suspicious Activity Reports on non-profit organizations or advocacy groups based on ideological criteria?

12. What specific operational coordination exists between the Office of Terrorism and Financial Intelligence and the Internal Revenue Service to ensure that tax-exempt audits are triggered by evidence of criminal funding rather than political orientation?

13. What administrative mechanism exists for domestic non-profits or international partners who are mistakenly flagged, debanked, or denied financial services as a result of these directives to appeal or otherwise contest these actions?

14. In addition to answering the above questions, please provide all communications, memoranda, advisories, or legal guidance exchanged between the Department of State, Department of the Treasury, Department of Homeland Security, Department of Justice, and the White House regarding the implementation of NSPM-7 between September 25, 2025 and the present.

The weaponization of the security apparatus of the state to suppress political dissent, criminalize international solidarity, and intimidate civil society is a direct assault on constitutional rights and democratic governance. Defining political opposition as an existential threat does not make communities safer—it degrades civil liberties, expands state surveillance, enables violence by state actors, and mirrors the repressive tactics of authoritarian regimes worldwide. We urge the Administration to immediately withdraw this policy, abandon plans to export the NSPM-7 framework to foreign governments, and cease deploying the State and Treasury Departments to target political speech and civil society.

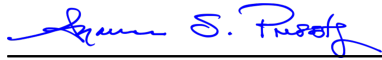
Sincerely,



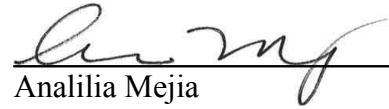
Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



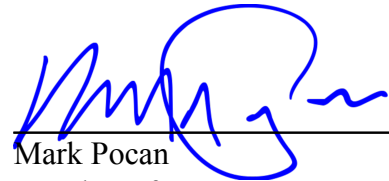
Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress



Analilia Mejia
Member of Congress



Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



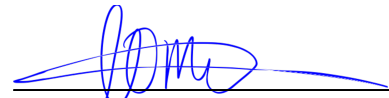
Greg Casar
Member of Congress



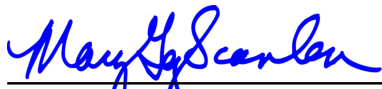
Summer L. Lee
Member of Congress



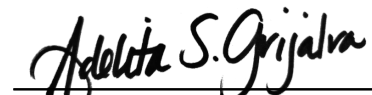
Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



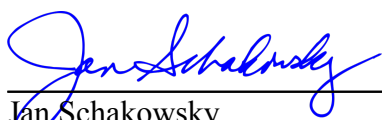
Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress



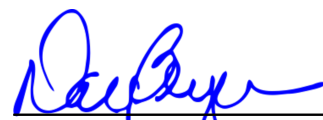
Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress



Adela S. Grijalva
Member of Congress



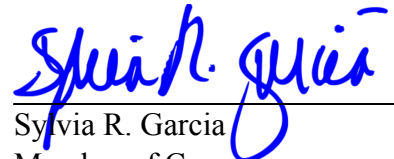
Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



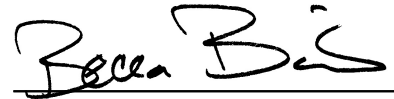
Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



Sylvia R. García
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



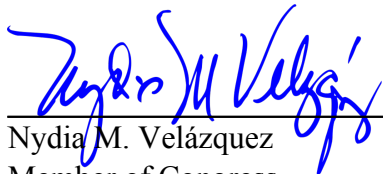
Becca Balint
Member of Congress



Lateefah Simon
Member of Congress



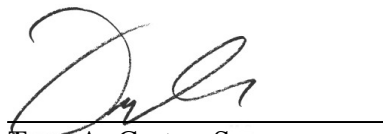
Maxine Dexter, M.D.
Member of Congress



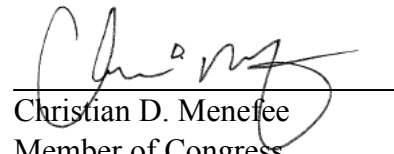
Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



Maxwell Alejandro Frost
Member of Congress



Troy A. Carter, Sr.
Member of Congress



Christian D. Menefee
Member of Congress



Jasmine Crockett
Member of Congress



Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress



Al Green
Member of Congress