

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 31, 2017

The Honorable Gene L. Dodaro
Comptroller General of the United States
U.S. Government Accountability Office
441 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20548

Dear Mr. Dodaro:

It was recently reported that a number of U.S. and Canadian diplomats and their families in Havana, Cuba are believed to have been attacked which resulted in serious health conditions, including hearing loss and brain damage. According to press accounts, more than 24 U.S. diplomats and family members received treatment for these conditions believed to be connected to the attacks that reportedly began in November or December 2016 and continued into 2017. We are interested in how the Department of State investigated and responded to these attacks. Specifically, we request that you address the following objectives.

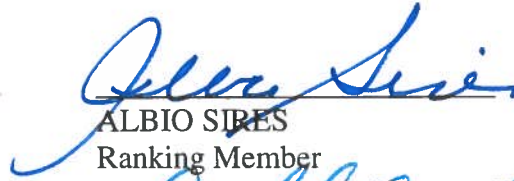
1. What State policies and procedures exist to respond to, analyze, and report incidents of attacks on and address resulting medical needs of personnel under Chief-of-Mission authority and, to the extent applicable, U.S. citizens?
2. What was the timeline of events involving the attacks in Cuba and State's response to the attacks and the medical needs of those affected?
3. To what extent did State follow its policies and procedures with respect to the attacks in Cuba?
4. To what extent has State taken steps to identify lessons learned by reviewing the facts surrounding, and its response to the attacks?
5. What is State currently doing to prepare Chief-of-Mission personnel and U.S. citizens for potential future attacks of a similar nature and assist the injured?
6. To what extent have U.S. private citizens in Cuba been affected by similar attacks, and what steps has State taken to alert U.S. citizens and provide assistance to any citizens affected by such attacks?
7. Was an Accountability Review Board convened, as an independent panel, to help identify vulnerabilities in the Department of State's security programs? If not, why not?
8. To what extent has State communicated with other U.S. missions around the world regarding these specific attacks and have any specific changes been implemented at other U.S. missions due to the threat of these attacks?

Thank you for your attention to this request. If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Eddy Acevedo (Ros-Lehtinen) at Eddy.Acevedo@mail.house.gov or at 202-225-3345 and Sadaf Khan (Sires) Sadaf.Khan@mail.house.gov or at 202-225-7919. If necessary and appropriate, we request that you provide a classified annex to your report.

Sincerely,



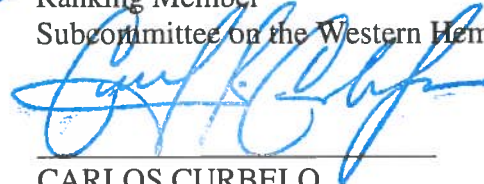
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