

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 3, 2018

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

We write to express our concerns over Russia's efforts to harass current and former U.S. officials and politicize the publication of Interpol Red Notices. We urge you to clearly and forcefully reject any new Russian demands to interrogate or indict U.S. diplomats, congressional staff, and private citizens and also oppose the issuance of improper Red Notices that target Americans. We also respectfully request an explanation of your Administration's strategy for protecting current and former U.S. officials and private citizens from Russian harassment and for countering additional Russian attempts to politicize Interpol.

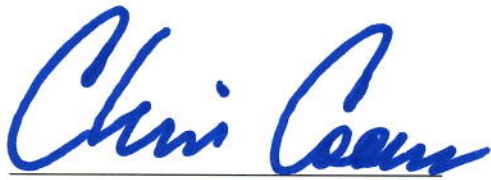
The Senate voted 98-0 on July 19 to urge you to reject President Vladimir Putin's proposal to allow Russia to interview 11 American officials and private citizens in exchange for making Russian intelligence agents available to U.S. authorities. We remain concerned that Russia will continue to request access to these 11 Americans and may add new people to its list. Additionally, Russia is likely to use other methods to harass and intimidate Americans. Russia has long exploited Interpol Red Notices to pursue and threaten internal Russian political opponents, dissidents, and businessmen. We believe Moscow will now expand this practice to target U.S. officials and private citizens.

In recent years, Russia has systematically exploited Western institutions to advance its own political objectives and erode the rule of law in democratic nations, including the United States. Interpol has issued Red Notices on the basis of dubious Russian legal evidence, which allows for an individual's apprehension, detention, and potential extradition. A Red Notice makes life extremely difficult for its subject. Americans subject to a Red Notice will not automatically be notified of their status. Therefore, even if the target is safe in their home country, they may be detained or extradited as soon as they cross an international border, especially in a state with

underdeveloped rule of law or one that is subject to substantial Russian influence. The target of a Red Notice may also be subject to travel bans and asset seizures. As a result of these consequences, a Red Notice can severely inhibit the work an individual can perform on behalf of the U.S. government or an independent organization.

If the United States does not stand up for its citizens, it will convey weakness to Vladimir Putin and other international rivals. The Russian government is likely to continue searching for methods to target Americans, weaken international institutions, and undermine democratic processes around the world. Therefore, we urge you to vigorously oppose any Russian attempt to issue Red Notices for current and former U.S. diplomats, congressional staff, and private citizens, and encourage you to rally our allies and partners to reject them as well. We ask you to articulate a whole-of-government strategy to protect Americans from Russian harassment and to counter additional attempts to politicize Interpol. Additionally, we hope you will see Congress as an ally in this important effort. We stand ready to work with you to forge additional measures and reciprocal actions to deter Russia from politicizing Interpol and threatening Americans.

Sincerely,



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



Roger F. Wicker
United States Senator



Mazie Hirono
United States Senator



Marco Rubio
United States Senator