

May 25, 2021

Dear Deputy Secretary McKeon,

Thank you for joining the Cuba-China cohort call on April 14. Since that call we have been eagerly looking forward to sitting down with you and your team to work on the continued response to the attacks on our colleagues and families.

After four years of challenges, we were hopeful that the new administration would welcome a partnership with us to ensure those affected receive the care and treatment they need and ensure appropriate care for the new cases. We truly believe that working side by side with employees would improve the response as we can both serve as a resource to the government wide approach and ensure injured employees and families remain at the center of the response. Unfortunately, our experience thus far has fallen short of our renewed expectations.

On March 23 we sent the attached letter to Ambassador Spratlan requesting a meeting between her and representatives from the Cuba and China group to collaborate on the Secretary's pledge to prioritize the safety and security of our diplomats. The Task Force's interaction with the cohort has been limited to the one large-group conference call in mid-April despite repeated requests for follow-on meetings over the past two months. Senior Department leadership's continued refusal to meet with and hear directly from its injured personnel is discouraging.

Furthermore, we have been disheartened to learn and experience that staff within the Department continue to 1) Deny employees and injured family members access to proper medical evaluation and treatment 2) Reject scientific evidence regarding the injuries and treatment needs and 3) Invalidate our injuries and experiences. Our counterparts in the defense and intelligence community have had a different level and frequency of engagement.

We ask that leadership within the Department honor President Biden's commitment to *elevate U.S. diplomacy and stand by the women and men advancing our foreign policy* by prioritizing the health, safety and security of our officers.

We stand ready to work together with you, Ambassador Spratlen and the Department to tackle the complex challenges presented by this issue.

Attached is a list of recommendations that we hope to discuss at length with you and your team in the near future. We hope you will accept our request to meet and set in motion a joint work plan.

Kind regards,

Victims of Hostile Action in Cuba and China