## Congress of the United States Washington, DC 20515

February 5, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden,

We write to express our concerns with your commitment to rejoin the United Nations Human Rights Council. <sup>1</sup> Since its founding in 2006, the Human Rights Council has failed to seriously advance the basic tenets of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and has instead bolstered some of the most oppressive regimes in the world. The United States should not grant this body any further credibility with its membership.

Created to replace the United Nations Human Rights Commission, the Human Rights Council has proven to be even more problematic and corrupt. The Human Rights Council routinely ignores some of the world's worst atrocities and grants membership to countries with egregious human rights violations. Freedom House's annual Freedom in the World report rates over half of the 47-member body as "not free" or "partly free." Giving countries like China, Russia, Cuba, Venezuela, Eritrea, Pakistan, and Somalia an international platform to speak on human rights is unacceptable.

Rather than focusing on China's systemic oppression of millions of Uyghur Muslims or the inhumane treatment of women and ethnic and religious minorities across the Middle East, the Council disproportionately targets the State of Israel. Israel is the only country to be a permanent item on the Council's agenda. This past year, the 43rd Human Rights Council session adopted five resolutions condemning Israel, and only one each targeting Iran, Syria, and North Korea. Unfortunately, this systematic bias is not new. From 2006-2019, the Council adopted one resolution on Venezuela, nine on Eritrea, nine on Iran, 12 on North Korea, 32 on Syria, and 85 condemning Israel. There were zero resolutions targeting China, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Cuba, or Pakistan, countries that repeatedly violate the rights of women, religious and ethnic minorities, journalists, and political dissidents. It would be morally reprehensible for the United States to become party to a body that systemically shields the world's worst regimes from accountability.

<sup>1</sup> https://medium.com/@JoeBiden/statement-from-vice-president-joe-biden-on-human-rights-day-e742d20231fd

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> https://freedomhouse.org/countries/freedom-world/scores

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/Pages/MembersByYear.aspx

<sup>4</sup> https://unwatch.org/database/resolution-database/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> https://unwatch.org/watchdog-calls-out-hypocrisy-of-un-rights-council-exposes-anti-israel-bias/

We believe President Trump was right to withdraw the United States from the Human Rights Council. The United States' participation in this body has not led to any meaningful reforms. Seeking membership in this body will only grant legitimacy to dictators and condone the horrendous treatment of one of our greatest allies, the State of Israel. It is clear that this body does not advance our national interests nor reflect our American values. We respectfully request the United States not seek membership in the U.N. Human Rights Council.

Sincerely,

Chip Roy

Member of Congress

Joe Wilson

Member of Congress

Jos Wilson

Scott Perry

Member of Congress

Ann Wagner

Gun Wagu

Member of Congress

W. Gregory Steube

Member of Congress

Ronny Jackson

Member of Congress

Mark Green

Member of Congress

Doug Lamborn

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Yvette Herrell

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Mike Garcia Member of Congress

Ted Budd

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Randy Weber

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Mike Rogers

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Tom McClintock Member of Congress Michael Cloud

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Andy Harris, M.D. Member of Congress **Andy Biggs** 

Member of Congress

Josy Hice

Jody Hice

Member of Congress

Barry Loudermilk Member of Congress Warren Davidson

Warren Davidson Member of Congress

Scott DesJarlias
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Jeff Duncan Member of Congress

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Thomas Tiffany Member of Congress

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Barry Moore Member of Congress Bill Johnson

Bill Johnson Member of Congress

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Kat Cammack Member of Congress

Dan Crenshaw Member of Congress

Steve Chilat

Steve Chabot Member of Congress Paniel Welster

Daniel Webster Member of Congress

Jason Smith Member of Congress

Brian Fitzpatrick Member of Congress

Dan Bishop Member of Congress

Wan Bishop

Roger Williams Member of Congress

Roger Heinuis

Rick Allen Member of Congress cc: The Honorable Antony Blinken Secretary of State U.S. Department of State 2201 C St NW Washington DC 20520

> The Honorable Linda Thomas-Greenfield U.N Ambassador-designate United Nations Mission to the United Nations 779 United Nations Plaza New York, NY 10017