

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1405

July 26, 2022

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden,

As you are probably aware, I am very disappointed with the lack of clear strategy and decisive actions from your Administration mismanaging the brutal situation in Ukraine.

Irrespective of our assurances under the 1994 Budapest Memorandum, which denuclearized Ukraine, and the commitment of the Ukrainian people to our country and our values, our lack of proper attention to Ukraine's critical infrastructure could pose major national security risks. Another Afghanistan debacle could be very costly for all of us.

I urge you to establish a Joint Task Force within the Department of Defense to implement a coherent strategy, proper oversight of critical infrastructure, and streamlined logistics of lethal aid.

I have visited Ukraine six times since the war started, and sent you a letter on July 8, 2022 raising concerns with President Zelensky's Chief of Staff Andriy Yermak. I would like to bring the following recent developments to your attention:

- 1) **Mr. Yermak's delay of anticorruption prosecutor appointment** - Under recent pressure, Kyiv finally proceeded with the appointment of Oleksandr Klymenko as anticorruption prosecutor after stalling for almost two years by Oleh Tatarov, Mr. Yermak's appointee. Although, this process has not yet been completed and requires additional actions from the prosecutor general. Kyiv also recently removed Iryna Venediktova as prosecutor general. It appears that Mr. Yermak may try to appoint a partisan prosecutor through Zelensky's parliamentary majority (appointed by party leadership), which effectively could sabotage Mr. Klymenko's work.

Your Administration needs to watch these issues closely and also provide accountability and transparency to Congress: nothing should preclude your Administration from publishing which agencies and officials within them are in charge of the appropriated funds and listing all entities receiving these funds.

- 2) **Alarming accumulation of power by Mr. Yermak** - Also under recent pressure, Kyiv started to make a number of changes in key positions, citing Russian connections for some. These developments raise two concerns: why they waited until now, and further centralization of power by Mr. Yermak.

As you know, the judicial and prosecutorial systems in Ukraine are still in need of major reform and are controlled by the Office of the President. This lack of checks and balances has been abused in prior administrations and appears to be exploited by Mr. Yermak again through intimidation and threats.

Another example of abuse of power is the recent issuance of secret executive orders to revoke Ukrainian citizenships without proper due process. Unfortunately, after I raised my concerns publicly, instead of addressing them, Mr. Yermak smeared me on government-controlled TV and started a “witch hunt” on all people I ever came across in Ukraine who are not his “puppets”. Last week, Hennadiy Korban, head of territorial defense of the Dnipropetrovsk region, who I had a brief encounter with in Dnipro, was stripped of his citizenship by secret order and denied entry to Ukraine after a short family visit. Also, a member of the Ukrainian Parliament, who I met on our CODEL to Ukraine, was nearly denied her recent visit to the United States by border guards who used a phony “lost passport” trick against her. In fact, all exits of key Ukrainian officials must now be approved and have been often denied by Mr. Yermak, and entries could be denied by him without due process – a sad resemblance of the Soviet Union.

3) Concerning Ministry of Defense appointment by Mr. Yermak - As you are aware, a number of issues I have raised have been brought to my attention by Americans and Europeans during CODELs. One of these issues was raised by a licensed U.S. defense contractor, who expressed to me significant concerns with Denys Sharapov, Deputy Minister of Defense, appointed by Mr. Yermak in April. This issue was also reported to the FBI by said contractor, therefore I did not raise it publicly before. Since it is now circulating in the Ukrainian media ([“Can Ukraine avoid sabotage in Yermak’s weapons monopoly?”](#)) and, as a member of the Judiciary Committee who has significant concerns with the politicization of the FBI, I would like your response on proper attention to this issue by the FBI.

Mr. Sharapov is known to be a business partner of Andriy Yermak, Borys Yermak (Andriy’s father, who retired from the Russian FSB) and Russian citizen Rahamim Emanuilov, who has prior connections to Iran and Afghanistan, and a current connection to Vladimir Putin.

Lack of appointment of anti-corruption prosecutor, concerns raised by our military personnel and defense contractors, as well as some NATO allies, raise national security concerns and require proper attention from your Administration. Your prompt response on these matters would be appreciated.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victoria Spartz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end.

Victoria Spartz
Member of Congress

CC: Secretary Blinken, Director Wray, Ambassador Brink