

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 1, 2020

The Honorable Kenneth A. Blanco, Director  
Financial Crimes Enforcement Network  
US Department of the Treasury  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Director Blanco:

We write with deep concern about mounting evidence regarding alleged payments by the Government of the Russian Federation, or proxies of that Government, to offer “bounties” for the killing of members of the Armed Forces of the United States or members of the Resolute Support Mission led by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in Afghanistan.

We are specifically inquiring about recent media reports regarding the existence of intercepted electronic data showing large financial transfers from a bank account controlled by Russia’s military intelligence agency to a Taliban-linked account. The media also reported on the discovery of roughly \$500,000 in cash seized in a raid of the house of one of the alleged Afghan middlemen in this appalling reported scheme.

We request to be briefed by you directly within the next two days on these reports, including any intercept evidence developed by Treasury or other US government analysts to which FinCEN has access that would shed light on these allegations.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to your prompt response.



Sherrod Brown, Ranking Member  
Committee on Banking, Housing  
and Urban Affairs



Jack Reed, Ranking Member  
Committee on Armed Services



Robert Menendez, Ranking Member  
Committee on Foreign Relations

CC: Secretary Steven Mnuchin, US Department of Treasury