

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

August 6, 2026

The Honorable Marco Rubio
Secretary
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

The Honorable Pete Hegseth
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

The Honorable John Ratcliffe
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, DC 20535

Dear Secretary Rubio, Secretary Hegseth, and Director Ratcliffe,

I write today as a senior member of the House Select Committee on Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party and the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence to voice my great concern over recent public reports that a company from the People's Republic of China (PRC) was planning to sell shoulder-fired air-defense missiles to the Islamic Republic of Iran. Public reports from this week indicate that a PRC company signed a deal to ship an initial batch of 300 to 400 man-portable air defense systems (MANPADS) to Iran to replenish its degraded air defense systems, putting American servicemembers at risk.¹ I have written to you before regarding my concern of what appears to be PRC's military support for the Iranian regime, and this news only deepens my alarm.

On July 28, Reuters publicly reported on an agreement to transfer these systems, including the Chinese-made QW-12 and FN-16 missiles, from the PRC to Iran through a Hong Kong-based company.² MANPADS are capable of targeting planes, helicopters, and low-flying drones, which would substantially increase the risk to U.S. forces and security partners in the region.³ This new capability would strengthen Iran's short-range air defenses and demonstrate deepening military ties with the PRC.

In May, Chinese Communist Party General Secretary Xi Jinping assured President Trump that China was not involved with the war in Iran, including the sale of weapons to Iran through the government or private-sector intermediaries.⁴ However, this publicly reported arms sale marks a dangerous escalation and demonstrates the PRC is actively aiding Iran to reconstitute its military capabilities. Public reports also indicate

¹ Irish, John, and Jonathan Saul. "Iran to Get Chinese Shoulder-Launched Missile Systems in Weeks, Sources Say." Reuters, July 28, 2026.

² *Id*

³ "MANPADS at a Glance." MANPADS at a Glance | Arms Control Association, August 2023.

⁴ Kelly, Laura. "Trump Says Russia, China Not 'Participating' in Iran War 'in My Opinion.'" *The Hill*, n.d.

that Western intelligence sources claim the PRC and Iran planned to have the weapons deliveries made overland via Pakistan, though Pakistan denies involvement.⁵

The Administration must end this needless and destructive war, which is harming the American economy and risking the lives of American servicemembers. The war has caused major damage to the U.S. global reputation and is encouraging our adversaries to cooperate in tandem against us. At the same time, it is essential that the State Department and White House make clear that it is unacceptable for Beijing to provide support that emboldens Iran's repressive regime and enhances its military capabilities.

To that end, please provide responses to the following questions by August 16, 2026:

- 1) To what extent is the PRC helping Iran rebuild its military capabilities, including through the provision of portable air defense systems, and is there evidence of other confirmed or discussed arms sales from the PRC to Iran?
- 2) Has the Administration raised the recent public reports of the PRC's provision of MANPADS to Iran with Chinese counterparts, and does it find Beijing's denial of these public reports credible?
- 3) What steps are being taken to protect our servicemembers and military assets from MANPADS and other similar systems in the Iran conflict?
- 4) Has there been any indication or confirmation that the PRC is sharing intelligence information with the Iranians to better strike U.S. and/or allied forces in the region?
- 5) What is the intelligence community's assessment, if any, on whether the agreed MANPADS transfer process has been initiated or is on hold?
- 6) What is the intelligence community's ability, if any, to track arms moved overland via Pakistan and what is the determination on the extent Pakistani leadership knew of the deal and proposed transfer?
- 7) Does the intelligence community believe it has adequate resources to monitor these kinds of threats going forward?

In addition, I respectfully request a briefing—classified, if necessary—by September 2, 2026, on the MANPADS agreement, PRC military and intelligence support for Iran, and CIA, State Department, and Department of Defense efforts to prevent similar threats to our service members.

Thank you for your attention and I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress

⁵ Irish, John, and Jonathan Saul. "Iran to Get Chinese Shoulder-Launched Missile Systems in Weeks, Sources Say." Reuters, July 28, 2026.