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Congress of the United States  
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THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

May 5, 2026

The Honorable Tulsi Gabbard  
Director of National Intelligence  
Office of the Director of National Intelligence  
2201 C St., N.W.  
Washington, DC 20511

Dear Director Gabbard,

I write to you today to express my serious concern that President Trump has falsely informed Congress that after 60 days, the war with Iran has been “terminated”—all while the U.S. blockade of Iranian ports and naval enforcement operations continue, and the underlying ceasefire arrangement remains contested and unstable. Just yesterday, the United States military said that it destroyed six Iranian small boats and intercepted cruise missiles and drones fired by Iran. The clear disconnect between Trump’s statements and reality raises urgent questions for the Intelligence Community regarding the status of hostilities, Iranian intentions, and the likelihood of de-escalation. The American people do not want war with Iran, and Trump’s characterization of the war is simply not true. Therefore, I respectfully request that the Office of the Director of National Intelligence provide a classified briefing assessing the status of hostilities and the so-called ceasefire, whether Iran is likely to relent under current conditions, and what factors would contribute to Iran conceding to the current blockade.

On April 30, 2026, President Trump transmitted a letter to Congress erroneously asserting that “there has been no exchange of fire between the United States and Iran since April 7, 2026,” and characterizing the conflict as “terminated” following a ceasefire he has “indefinitely extended.” Yet, on April 22, 2026 President Trump himself posted on Truth Social that “Iran has Violated the Cease Fire numerous times.” In addition, the United States has an active naval blockade of Iranian ports that it is enforcing with more than 100 fighter and surveillance aircraft, two carrier strike groups, and more than a dozen ships. On April 19, 2026, US Navy destroyer USS Spruance enforced the blockade and fired upon and disabled the Iranian-flagged cargo vessel *Touska* that was attempting to sail toward an Iranian port. And on May 4, U.S. military helicopters reportedly sank six Iranian small boats after Iran launched multiple cruise missile and drones in the Strait of Hormuz. President Trump is simply trying to misinform Congress and the American people so that he can try to claim to be in compliance with the War Powers Resolution of 1973, which forbids U.S. armed forces from being engaged in hostilities for more than 60 days without congressional authorization. But this is not a true ceasefire, and we continue to be in an unauthorized war.

We do want to see this war come to a true end. But while President Trump refuses to withdraw the United States from hostilities, it is unclear whether there is any indication that Iran will relent under the current blockade. Public reporting indicates that Iran still has around 170 million barrels of oil on tankers that left the Strait of Hormuz before the blockade and experts estimate this could generate some oil revenue for two to three months. Iran has also reportedly evaded the U.S. naval blockade by using fake flags, shell companies and disabled tracking signals. Meanwhile back at home, 61 percent of Americans believe U.S. military action

against Iran was a mistake, according to a Washington Post–ABC News–Ipsos poll, as we face the highest level of gas prices in four years and additional mounting economic pressures.

If the United States is to accurately assess whether Iran is approaching a point of capitulation—or instead preparing for prolonged economic and maritime confrontation—it is essential that Congress receive a comprehensive intelligence assessment grounded in both economic indicators and adversary intent.

Accordingly, I respectfully request a classified briefing no later than May 15, addressing the following questions:

1. What is the Intelligence Community’s current assessment of the status of hostilities between the United States and Iran?
2. What is the Intelligence Community’s assessment of the durability of the current ceasefire agreement, and what instances of violations by Iran has it noted, including throughout the region?
3. What is the Intelligence Community’s assessment about whether Iran is likely to relent under current conditions, and what specific indicators (economic, military, political, or internal stability metrics) are being monitored to evaluate that likelihood?
4. What is the current assessment of Iran’s ability to sustain oil exports under blockade pressure, including the role of floating storage, onshore capacity constraints, and alternative export pathways?
5. How is Iran currently evading or mitigating the effects of maritime restrictions in and around the Strait of Hormuz, including ship-to-ship transfers, flag manipulation, or rerouting of cargo?
6. What is the Intelligence Community’s assessment of Iran’s strategic intent regarding the Strait of Hormuz—specifically whether Iran seeks long-term closure, selective disruption, or bargaining leverage tied to nuclear development?
7. What indicators would signal that Iran is approaching a structural economic breaking point under current conditions, including storage saturation, production curtailment, or internal fiscal stress?

The American people and Congress require clarity on whether current policy is producing a stable end state or whether President Trump’s erratic decision making in the region will lead to more instability and uncertainty for the American people at home. I appreciate your prompt attention to this matter and look forward to your timely response and briefing.

Sincerely,



Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Member of Congress