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## INTERNATIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE JUSTICE FOR CYPRUS

May 13, 2022

The Honorable Bob Menendez  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Foreign Relations  
423 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jack Reed  
Chairman  
Senate Armed Services Committee  
228 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable James E. Risch  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Foreign Relations  
423 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jim Inhofe  
Ranking Member  
Senate Armed Services Committee  
228 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Menendez, Ranking Member Risch, Chairman Reed, and Ranking Member Inhofe:

On behalf of the International Coordinating Committee-Justice for Cyprus (PSEKA), I am writing to express opposition to the Republic of Turkey's request to buy 40 Lockheed Martin-made F-16 fighter jets and nearly 80 modernization kits for its existing warplanes and the State Department's notice of pending Foreign Military Sales for air-to-air missiles and radar/avionics upgrades to Turkey.

Over the last few sessions of Congress, the United States responded to Turkey's acquisition of Russian S-400 missile systems by ejecting Turkey from the F35 program and imposing sanctions under the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA). These were important steps taken to protect American interests and to hold Turkey accountable. For this reason, we are extremely disappointed to hear senior Administration officials openly consider Turkey's F-16 request without even the hint of a solution to the underlying situation that resulted in the sanctions in the first place.

If Turkey had changed its behavior in response to the consequences it faced after acquiring Russian S-400s, perhaps we would understand what appears to be a change in policy by the State Department. But Turkey has *not* changed behavior. In fact, Ankara's behavior has gotten worse.

Since the imposition of CAATSA sanctions on Turkey, the Erdogan government: has promised to proceed with acquiring additional S-400 systems; has increased its provocations in the Eastern Mediterranean and the Aegean; and has both continued its occupation of Cyprus and disregarded U.S. policy on reunifying Cyprus – while bolstered by American made weapons.

In two landmark pieces of legislation – the Eastern Mediterranean Security and Energy Partnership Act of 2019 and the U.S.-Greece Defense and Interparliamentary Partnership Act of 2022 – Congress found that “the security of partners and allies in the Eastern Mediterranean region is critical to the security of the United States and Europe.” Congress also identified the Republic of Cyprus as one of those partners.

Turkey uses American made weapons to undermine the very security that Congress seeks to bolster. For this reason, we oppose the sale of new and upgraded F-16s or any major weapons system to Turkey as long as Ankara threatens the security of the Republic of Cyprus and other U.S. allies and partners in the Eastern Mediterranean.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this matter further with you or your staff.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Philip Christopher".

Philip Christopher  
President  
PSEKA