



United States Department of State

Washington, DC 20520

January 21, 2025

Case No. F-2024-21154/  
FL-2025-00003

Will Scolinos  
America First Legal Foundation  
611 Pennsylvania Ave SE #231  
Washington, DC 20003

Dear Mr. Scolinos:

This letter is in response to your request dated September 16, 2024, regarding the release of certain Department of State ("Department") material under the Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA"), 5 U.S.C. § 552. Thus far, the Department has identified 55 responsive records subject to the FOIA. Upon review, we have determined all 55 records may be released in part.

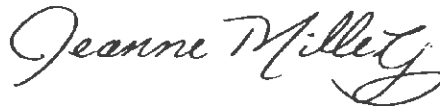
An enclosure explains the FOIA exemptions and other grounds for withholding material. Where we have made redactions, the applicable FOIA exemptions are marked on each record. Where applicable, the Department has considered the foreseeable harm standard when reviewing these records and applying FOIA exemptions. All non-exempt material that is reasonably segregable from the exempt material has been released and is enclosed.

For your information, Congress excluded three discrete categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIA. *See* 5 U.S.C. § 552(c). This response is limited to those records that are subject to the requirements of the FOIA. This is a standard notification that is given to all our requesters and should not be taken as an indication

that excluded records do, or do not, exist. To the extent another agency asserts that it can neither confirm nor deny the existence of certain records, the Department of State will similarly take the position that it neither confirms nor denies the existence of those records.

We will keep you informed as your case progresses. If you have any questions, your attorney may contact Assistant U.S. Attorney Douglas Drier at [Douglas.Drier@usdoj.gov](mailto:Douglas.Drier@usdoj.gov) or (202) 252-2551. Please refer to the case number, F-2024-21154/FL-2025-0003, and the civil action number, 24-cv-02883, in all correspondence about this case.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeanne Miller".

Jeanne Miller

Acting Director, Litigation and Appeals Office  
Information Access Programs

Enclosures: As stated.

## **The Freedom of Information Act (5 USC 552)**

### **FOIA Exemptions**

- (b)(1) Information specifically authorized by an executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy. Executive Order 13526 includes the following classification categories:
- 1.4(a) Military plans, systems, or operations
  - 1.4(b) Foreign government information
  - 1.4(c) Intelligence activities, sources or methods, or cryptology
  - 1.4(d) Foreign relations or foreign activities of the US, including confidential sources
  - 1.4(e) Scientific, technological, or economic matters relating to national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
  - 1.4(f) U.S. Government programs for safeguarding nuclear materials or facilities
  - 1.4(g) Vulnerabilities or capabilities of systems, installations, infrastructures, projects, plans, or protection services relating to US national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
  - 1.4(h) Weapons of mass destruction
- (b)(2) Related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency
- (b)(3) Specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than 5 USC 552), for example:
- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| ARMSEXP        | Arms Export Control Act, 50a USC 2411(c)                    |
| CIA PERS/ORG   | Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949, 50 USC 403(g)      |
| EXPORT CONTROL | Export Administration Act of 1979, 50 USC App. Sec. 2411(c) |
| FS ACT         | Foreign Service Act of 1980, 22 USC 4004                    |
| INA            | Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 USC 1202(f), Sec. 222(f) |
| IRAN           | Iran Claims Settlement Act, Public Law 99-99, Sec. 505      |
- (b)(4) Trade secrets and confidential commercial or financial information
- (b)(5) Interagency or intra-agency communications forming part of the deliberative process, attorney-client privilege, or attorney work product
- (b)(6) Personal privacy information
- (b)(7) Law enforcement information whose disclosure would:
- (A) interfere with enforcement proceedings
  - (B) deprive a person of a fair trial
  - (C) constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy
  - (D) disclose confidential sources
  - (E) disclose investigation techniques
  - (F) endanger life or physical safety of an individual
- (b)(8) Prepared by or for a government agency regulating or supervising financial institutions
- (b)(9) Geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells

### **Other Grounds for Withholding**

- NR Material not responsive to a FOIA request excised with the agreement of the requester

**From:** danny mick  
**Sent:** Mon, 16 Sep 2024 13:22:56 +0300  
**To:** kyivacs@state.gov  
**Subject:** Ryan Routh

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] (b)(6) [Learn why this is important](#)

My name is Dan Mick I've been a volunteer from America here and Ukraine for two years when I first got here this man worked with me on a drone program there's any information that I can do to further the investigation against President Trump please notify me

**From:** [REDACTED] (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Wed, 27 Mar 2024 10:10:53 +0430  
**To:** AfghanSIVapplication@state.gov; sivtranslator.nsc@dhs.gov;  
NVCSIV@state.gov; SIV@wrapsnet.org  
**Subject:** [REDACTED] (b)(3); (b)(6)  
**Attachments:** [REDACTED]

(b)(3); (b)(6)

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(3)

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Mon, 16 Sep 2024 15:02:55 +0000  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: ~~SBU - Law Enforcement~~ - Ryan Routh

You're welcome!

~~SBU - LAW ENFORCEMENT~~

---

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 16, 2024 11:01 AM  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Cc:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: ~~SBU - Law Enforcement~~ - Ryan Routh

Thank you, (b)(6)

~~SBU - LAW ENFORCEMENT~~

---

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 16, 2024 10:58 AM  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Cc:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** ~~SBU - Law Enforcement~~ - Ryan Routh

(b)(6)

Sending for your awareness, see below and attached for details:

This case involves Ryan Routh, who appears to be the suspect in custody for an assassination attempt against a presidential candidate, and a subject in the New York Times (NYT) article published in March 2023.

- March 25, 2023, the NYT published an article: "Stolen Valor: The U.S. Volunteers in Ukraine Who Lie, Waste and Bicker". (b)(5); (b)(7)(E)

(b)(5); (b)(7)(E)

(b)(5); (b)(6); (b)(7)(E)

(b)(5); (b)(6); (b)(7)(E)

(b)(5); (b)(6); (b)(7)(E)

(b)(5); (b)(6)

(b)(6)



(b)(6)

Chief, Law Enforcement Liaison Division | Directorate of Defense Trade Controls  
(PM/DDTC)

Bureau of Political-Military Affairs | U.S. Department of State

Desk: (b)(6) Cell: (b)(6) Teams: (b)(6)

e-mail: (b)(6)@state.gov | SIPR e-mail: (b)(6)@state.sgov.gov

 <https://www.pmddtc.state.gov> |  <https://twitter.com/StateDeptPM>

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~~SBU~~—LAW ENFORCEMENT



**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Mon, 16 Sep 2024 15:36:52 +0000  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: ~~SBU – Law Enforcement~~ - RE: Ryan Routh

Will do.



(b)(6)  
Law Enforcement Liaison | Directorate of Defense Trade Controls (PM/DDTC)  
Bureau of Political-Military Affairs | U.S. Department of State  
Cherokee Nation System Solutions  
Desk: (b)(6) Cell: (b)(6)  
e-mail: (b)(6)@state.gov | SIPR e-mail: (b)(6)@state.sgov.gov  
 <https://www.pmddtc.state.gov> |  <https://twitter.com/StateDeptPM>

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~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 16, 2024 11:29 AM  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** ~~SBU – Law Enforcement~~ - RE: Ryan Routh

(b)(6)

Please add SBU – Law Enforcement to your subject line regarding this subject. FYSA – Below is what I sent to (b)(6)

.....

This case involves Ryan Routh, who appears to be the suspect in custody for an assassination attempt against a presidential candidate, and a subject in the New York Times (NYT) article published in March 2023.

- March 25, 2023, the NYT published an article: "Stolen Valor: The U.S. Volunteers in Ukraine Who Lie, Waste and Bicker" [REDACTED] (b)(5); (b)(7)(E)

[REDACTED] (b)(5); (b)(7)(E)

- [REDACTED] (b)(5); (b)(6); (b)(7)(E)

- [REDACTED] (b)(5); (b)(6); (b)(7)(E)

- [REDACTED] (b)(5); (b)(6); (b)(7)(E)

- [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED] (b)(5); (b)(6)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

**From:** [REDACTED] (b)(6)@state.gov>

**Sent:** Monday, September 16, 2024 10:21 AM

**To:** [REDACTED] (b)(6)@state.gov>

**Subject:** RE: Ryan Routh

[REDACTED] (b)(6)

[REDACTED] (b)(5)

[REDACTED] (b)(6)



[REDACTED] (b)(6)

Law Enforcement Liaison | Directorate of Defense Trade Controls (PM/DDTC)

Bureau of Political-Military Affairs | U.S. Department of State

Cherokee Nation System Solutions

Desk: [REDACTED] (b)(6) Cell: [REDACTED] (b)(6)

e-mail [\[redacted\] \(b\)\(6\)@state.gov](mailto:(b)(6)@state.gov) | SIPR e-mail [\[redacted\] \(b\)\(6\)@state.sgov.gov](mailto:(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov)  
 <https://www.pmddtc.state.gov> |  <https://twitter.com/StateDeptPM>

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~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

**From:** [\[redacted\] \(b\)\(6\)@state.gov](mailto:(b)(6)@state.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 16, 2024 10:00 AM  
**To:** [\[redacted\] \(b\)\(6\)@state.gov](mailto:(b)(6)@state.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Ryan Routh

[redacted] (b)(5)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

**From:** [\[redacted\] \(b\)\(6\)@state.gov](mailto:(b)(6)@state.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 16, 2024 9:39 AM  
**To:** [\[redacted\] \(b\)\(6\)@state.gov](mailto:(b)(6)@state.gov)>  
**Subject:** Ryan Routh

I just received this from [redacted] (b)(6) See attached



[redacted] (b)(6)  
Law Enforcement Liaison | Directorate of Defense Trade Controls (PM/DDTC)  
Bureau of Political-Military Affairs | U.S. Department of State  
Cherokee Nation System Solutions  
Desk [redacted] (b)(6) Cell [redacted] (b)(6)  
e-mail [\[redacted\] \(b\)\(6\)@state.gov](mailto:(b)(6)@state.gov) | SIPR e-mail [\[redacted\] \(b\)\(6\)@state.sgov.gov](mailto:(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov)



<https://www.pmddtc.state.gov> |



<https://twitter.com/StateDeptPM>

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**~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~**

**From:** Kabul SIV Verifications  
**Sent:** Fri, 13 Sep 2024 17:04:27 +0000  
**To:** 'Ryan Routh'  
**Subject:** RE: Recommendation Verification [REDACTED] (b)(3)

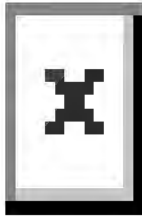
(b)(3); (b)(6)

~~SBU PRIVACY OR PH~~

**From:** Ryan Routh <aid.in.ukraine@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 13, 2024 10:48  
**To:** Kabul SIV Verifications <KabulSIVVerification@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Recommendation Verification [REDACTED] (b)(3)

(b)(3)

(b)(3)



(b)(3); (b)(6)

*US Visa Information is Protected under INA 222(f) and 9 FAM 40.49 FAM 603.1: This information "shall be considered confidential" per Section 222(f) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) [8 U.S.C. Section 1202]. Access to and use of such information must be solely for the formulation, amendment, administration, or enforcement of the immigration, nationality, and other laws of the United States under INA 222(f) and 9 FAM 603.1.*

*For additional information on the Afghan SIV program, including answers to frequently asked questions, please visit our website at <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/immigrate/special-immig-visa-afghans-employed-us-gov.html>.*

~~SBU-PRIVACY OR PIH~~

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Mon, 16 Sep 2024 08:45:16 +0000  
**To:** (b)(6) Beijing); (b)(6) (Beijing); (b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6) (Beijing)  
**Subject:** RE: PG for FT Navy SEALs Report?  
**Attachments:** TAIWAN - Conflict Deterrence Act - 13 SEPT 24.docx, TAIWAN - SEAL Team Six Training - 13 Sept 24.docx

Hi (b)(6)

(b)(5); (b)(6)

(b)(5)



(b)(5)

(b)(5)

Thanks,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Spokesperson

Public Diplomacy Section

American Institute in Taiwan

[www.ait.org.tw](http://www.ait.org.tw)

Tel: (b)(6)

Signal: (b)(6)

Line: (b)(6)

**From:** (b)(6) (Beijing) (b)(6)@state.gov>

**Sent:** Monday, September 16, 2024 10:07 AM

**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6) (Beijing)

(b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>

**Cc:** (b)(6) Beijing (b)(6)@state.gov>

**Subject:** RE: PG for FT Navy SEALs Report?

Thursday morning, EDT time for Amanpour. He also has an NPR interview on Friday morning, EDT. Thanks so much for your help!

---

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 16, 2024 10:06 AM  
**To:** (b)(6) (Beijing) (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6) (Beijing) (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Cc:** (b)(6) (Beijing) (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: PG for FT Navy SEALs Report?

Ooof. (b)(5)  
(b)(5) What day is he taping?

Back to you by COB with what we've got so far.

Thanks,

(b)(6)

(b)(6) Spokesperson  
Public Diplomacy Section  
American Institute in Taiwan  
[www.ait.org.tw](http://www.ait.org.tw)  
Tel: (b)(6)  
Signal: (b)(6)  
Line: (b)(6)

---

**From:** (b)(6) (Beijing) (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 16, 2024 9:48 AM  
**To:** (b)(6) (Beijing) (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6) (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Cc:** (b)(6) (Beijing) (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: PG for FT Navy SEALs Report?

Thanks, (b)(6). Ambassador Burns has an interview this week with Christiana Amanpour, so we want to be sure he has everything.

---

**From:** (b)(6) (Beijing) (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 16, 2024 9:33 AM  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Cc:** (b)(6) (Beijing) (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6) (Beijing) (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: PG for FT Navy SEALs Report?

Same here!

Got it, thanks (b)(6) (b)(5)

Best,

(b)(6)

---

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>

**Sent:** Monday, September 16, 2024 9:31 AM

**To:** (b)(6)(Beijing) (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)

(b)(6)@state.gov>

**Cc:** (b)(6)Beijing (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)(Beijing)

(b)(6)@state.gov>

**Subject:** RE: PG for FT Navy SEALs Report?

Morning, and good seeing you online last week!

(b)(5)

Back to you soon.

Thanks,

(b)(6)

(b)(6) Spokesperson

Public Diplomacy Section

American Institute in Taiwan

[www.ait.org.tw](http://www.ait.org.tw)

Tel: (b)(6)

Signal: (b)(6)

Line: (b)(6)

---

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>

**Sent:** Monday, September 16, 2024 9:27 AM

**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>

**Cc:** (b)(6)Beijing (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)Beijing)

(b)(6)@state.gov>

**Subject:** PG for FT Navy SEALs Report?

Hi (b)(6)

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

Would you please let us know if/when you have anything additional?

Many thanks,

(b)(6)

**EAP Press Guidance**  
**September 13, 2024**

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

**Approved:** EAP – Matthew Murray, Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary [MM]

**Drafted by:** EAP/Press, [REDACTED] (b)(6)

**Clearances:**

EAP/FO: [REDACTED] (b)(6) (ok)

EAP/FO: [REDACTED] (b)(6) (ok)

EAP/PPD/SPOX: [REDACTED] (b)(6) (ok)

EAP/TC: [REDACTED] (b)(6) (ok)

EAP/TC: [REDACTED] (b)(6) (ok)

EAP/China/Cross-Strait: [REDACTED] (b)(6) (ok)

EAP/China/Stratcom: [REDACTED] (b)(6) (ok)

EAP/RSP/Security: [REDACTED] (b)(6) (ok)

L/EAP: [REDACTED] (b)(6) (ok)

ISN/Press: [REDACTED] (b)(6) (ok)

ISN/CATR: [REDACTED] (b)(6) (ok)

C: [REDACTED] (b)(6) (ok)

R: [REDACTED] (b)(6) (ok)

D: [REDACTED] (b)(6) (ok)

P: [REDACTED] (b)(6) (ok)

S/P: [REDACTED] (b)(6) (info)

NSC #China: (info)

NSC #Press: (info)

SPOX: Matt Miller (briefed to SPOX)

**EAP Press Guidance**  
**September 13, 2024**

(b)(5)



**Approved:** EAP – Matthew Murray, Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary [MM]

**Drafted by:** EAP/Press, [REDACTED] (b)(6)

**Clearances:**

EAP/FO: [REDACTED] (b)(6) (ok)  
EAP/FO: A/DAS [REDACTED] (b)(6) (ok)  
EAP/PPD/SPOX: [REDACTED] (b)(6) (ok)  
EAP/TC: [REDACTED] (b)(6) (ok)  
EAP/TC: [REDACTED] (b)(6) (ok)  
EAP/China/Cross-Strait: [REDACTED] (b)(6) (ok)  
EAP/China/Stratcom: [REDACTED] (b)(6) (ok)  
L/EAP: [REDACTED] (b)(6) (info)  
EAP/RSP: [REDACTED] (b)(6) (ok)  
C: [REDACTED] (b)(6) (ok)  
R: [REDACTED] (b)(6) (info)  
D: [REDACTED] (b)(6) (info)  
P: [REDACTED] (b)(6) (ok)  
S/P: [REDACTED] (b)(6) (info)  
NSC #China: [REDACTED] (b)(6) (ok)  
NSC #Press: [REDACTED] (b)(6) (ok)  
SPOX: Matt Miller (Briefed to SPOX)

**From:** (b)(6) Beijing)  
**Sent:** Mon, 16 Sep 2024 08:47:26 +0000  
**To:** (b)(6) Beijing); (b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6) (Beijing)  
**Subject:** RE: PG for FT Navy SEALs Report?

Thanks, (b)(6) Super helpful.

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 16, 2024 4:45 PM  
**To:** (b)(6) (Beijing); (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6) Beijing)  
(b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Cc:** (b)(6) Beijing); (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: PG for FT Navy SEALs Report?

Hi (b)(6)

(b)(5); (b)(6)

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

Thanks,

(b)(6)

(b)(6) Spokesperson

Public Diplomacy Section  
American Institute in Taiwan  
[www.ait.org.tw](http://www.ait.org.tw)

Tel: (b)(6)

Signal: (b)(6)

Line: (b)(6)

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**Cc:** (b)(6) (Beijing) (b)(6)@state.gov>  
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(b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>  
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(b)(6) Spokesperson  
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American Institute in Taiwan  
[www.ait.org.tw](http://www.ait.org.tw)  
Tel: (b)(6)  
Signal: (b)(6)  
Line: (b)(6)

---

**From:** (b)(6) (Beijing) (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 16, 2024 9:48 AM  
**To:** (b)(6) (Beijing) (b)(6)@state.gov> (b)(6)  
(b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Cc:** (b)(6) (Beijing) (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: PG for FT Navy SEALs Report?

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**Subject:** RE: PG for FT Navy SEALs Report?

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Best,

(b)(6)

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**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 16, 2024 9:31 AM  
**To:** (b)(6) (Beijing) (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Cc:** (b)(6) (Beijing) (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6) (Beijing) (b)(6)@state.gov>  
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(b)(5)

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(b)(6)

(b)(6) Spokesperson  
Public Diplomacy Section  
American Institute in Taiwan  
[www.ait.org.tw](http://www.ait.org.tw)

Tel: (b)(6)  
Signal: (b)(6)  
Line: (b)(6)

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**Sent:** Monday, September 16, 2024 9:27 AM

**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Cc:** (b)(6)(Beijing) (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)(Beijing)  
(b)(6)@state.gov>

**Subject:** PG for FT Navy SEALs Report?

Hi (b)(6)

(b)(5)

Would you please let us know if/when you have anything additional?

Many thanks,

(b)(6)

**From:** [REDACTED] (b)(3); (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Fri, 19 Apr 2024 13:04:53 +0430  
**To:** NVCSIV  
**Subject:** [REDACTED] (b)(3); (b)(6)

(b)(3); (b)(6)

(b)(3); (b)(6)

Coalition forces spend 3 trillion dollars and 15 years training 300,000 soldiers that we must use to defeat Russia.

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(3); (b)(6)



**From:** [REDACTED] (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Mon, 27 Mar 2023 14:22:06 +0000  
**To:** [REDACTED] (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: CPA Media Monitoring: NY Times: Stolen Valor: The U.S. Volunteers in Ukraine Who Lie, Waste and Bicker

So, funny story. A few months back, someone posted in my neighborhood FB group that they needed a place to store their boyfriend's car, who was a former Green Beret, because his registration expired while he was "heroically volunteering as a fighter in Ukraine," and his car was ticketed. She was unable to renew the registration for him, so they just needed a garage to hide the car. The neighborhood response was amazing....while no one was lucky enough to have an actual garage, they were all very much praising him for his efforts. Meanwhile I kept my mouth shut thinking, "Well ticketing his car might be the least of his problems, because he's breaking the law!" 😊

[illegible]

## Stolen Valor: The U.S. Volunteers in Ukraine Who Lie, Waste and Bicker

**People who would not be allowed anywhere near the battlefield in a U.S.-led war are active on the Ukrainian front, with ready access to American weapons.**

Justin Scheck, an international investigative reporter, and Thomas Gibbons-Neff, the Ukraine correspondent, reported this article from Ukraine and around Europe.

NY Times

**March 25, 2023**

**Updated 6:47 a.m. ET**

***[Ed. Note: The first of an expected series on some of the dubious volunteer organizations supporting Ukraine. In response to some of the allegations of potential ITAR violations in this story brought to us from these reporters, PM/CPA is in touch with DTCC and DHS to refer allegations for possible future investigation. -D-]***

They rushed to Ukraine by the thousands, many of them Americans who promised to bring military experience, money or supplies to the battleground of a righteous war. Hometown newspapers hailed their commitment, and donors backed them with millions of dollars.

Now, after a year of combat, many of these homespun groups of volunteers are fighting with themselves and undermining the war effort. Some have wasted money or stolen valor. Others have cloaked themselves in charity while also trying to profit off the war, records show.

One retired Marine lieutenant colonel from Virginia is the focus of a U.S. federal investigation into the potentially illegal export of military technology. A former Army soldier arrived in Ukraine only to turn traitor and defect to Russia. A Connecticut man who lied about his military service has posted live updates from the battlefield — including his exact location — and boasted about his easy access to American weapons. A former construction worker is hatching a plan to use fake passports to smuggle in fighters from Pakistan and Iran.

And in one of the more curious entanglements, one of the largest volunteer groups is embroiled in a power struggle involving an Ohio man who falsely claimed to have been both a U.S. Marine and a LongHorn Steakhouse assistant manager. The dispute also involves a years-old incident on Australian reality TV.

Such characters have a place in Ukraine's defense because of the arms-length role the United States has taken: The Biden administration sends weapons and money but not professional troops. That means people who would not be allowed anywhere near the battlefield in a U.S.-led war are active on the Ukrainian front — often with unchecked access to weapons and military equipment.

Many of the volunteers who hurried to Ukraine did so selflessly and acted with heroism. Some have lost their lives. Foreigners have rescued civilians, aided the wounded and fought ferociously alongside Ukrainians. Others raised money for crucial supplies.

But in Europe's largest land war since 1945, the do-it-yourself approach does not discriminate between trained volunteers and those who lack the skills or discipline to assist effectively.

The New York Times reviewed more than 100 pages of documents from inside volunteer groups and interviewed more than 30 volunteers, fighters, fund-raisers, donors and American and Ukrainian officials. Some spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive information.

The interviews and research reveal a series of deceptions, mistakes and squabbles that have hindered the volunteer drive that began after Russia's full-scale invasion in February 2022, when President Volodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine called for help. "Every friend of Ukraine who wants to join Ukraine in defending the country, please come over," he said. "We will give you weapons."

Thousands answered the call. Some joined military groups like the International Legion, which Ukraine formed for foreign fighters. Others took roles in support or fund-raising. With Kyiv, Ukraine's capital, under attack, there was little time for vetting arrivals. So people with problematic pasts, including checkered or fabricated military records, became entrenched in the Legion and a constellation of other volunteer groups.

Asked about these problems, the Ukrainian military did not address specific issues but did say that it was on guard because Russian agents regularly tried to infiltrate volunteer groups. "We investigated such cases and handed them over to law enforcement agencies," said Andriy Cherniak, a representative for Ukrainian military intelligence.

#### 'A Million Lies'

One of the best-known Americans on the battlefield is James Vasquez. Days after the invasion, Mr. Vasquez, a Connecticut home-improvement contractor, announced that he was leaving for Ukraine. His local newspaper told the tale of a former U.S. Army staff sergeant who left behind his job and family and picked up a rifle and a rucksack on the front line.

Since then, he has posted battlefield videos online, at least once broadcasting his unit's precise location to everyone, including the opposing side. He used his story to solicit donations. "I was in Kuwait during Desert Storm, and I was in Iraq after 9/11," Mr. Vasquez said in a fund-raising video. He added, "This is a whole different animal."

Mr. Vasquez, in fact, was never deployed to Kuwait, Iraq or anywhere else, a Pentagon spokeswoman said. He specialized in fuel and electrical repairs. And he left the Army Reserve not as a sergeant as he claimed, but as a private first class, one of the Army's lowest ranks.

Still, Mr. Vasquez had easy access to weapons, including American rifles. Where did they come from? "I'm not exactly sure," Mr. Vasquez said in a text message. The rifles, he added, were "brand-new, out of the box and we have plenty." He also tweeted that he should not have to worry about international rules of war while in Ukraine.

He fought alongside Da Vinci's Wolves, a Ukrainian far-right battalion, until this past week, when The Times asked about his false military service claims. He immediately deactivated his Twitter account and said that he might leave Ukraine because the authorities had discovered that he was fighting without a required military contract.

Mr. Vasquez said he had been misrepresenting his military record for decades. He acknowledged being kicked out of the Army but would not talk publicly about why. "I had to tell a million lies to get ahead," Mr. Vasquez said in an interview. "I didn't realize it was going to come to this."

#### Public Quarrels

The International Legion, hastily formed by the Ukrainian government, spent 10 minutes or less checking each volunteer's background early in the war, one Legion official said. So a Polish fugitive who had been jailed in Ukraine for weapon violations got a position leading troops. Soldiers told The Kyiv Independent that he had misappropriated supplies, harassed women and threatened his soldiers.

Ukrainian officials initially boasted of 20,000 potential Legion volunteers, but far fewer actually enlisted. Currently, there are around 1,500 members in the organization, say people with knowledge of the Legion.

Some are experienced fighters working as part of the Defense Intelligence of Ukraine. But there have been high-profile problems. A former Army private first class, John McIntyre, was ejected from the Legion for bad behavior. Mr. McIntyre defected to Russia and recently appeared on state-run television, which said he had provided military intelligence to Moscow.

Internal documents show that the Legion is struggling. Recruitment has stagnated. The Washington-based Counter Extremism Project wrote in March that the Legion and affiliated groups "continue to feature individuals widely seen as unfit to perform their duties."

Malcolm Nance, a former Navy cryptologist and MSNBC commentator, arrived in Ukraine last year and made a plan to bring order and discipline to the Legion. Instead, he became enmeshed in the chaos.

Mr. Nance, whose television appearances have made him one of the most visible Americans supporting Ukraine, was an experienced military operator. He drafted a code of honor for the organization and, by all accounts, donated equipment.

Today, Mr. Nance is involved in a messy, distracting power struggle. Often, that plays out on Twitter, where Mr. Nance taunted one former ally as "fat" and an associate of "a verified con artist."

He accused a pro-Ukraine fund-raising group of fraud, providing no evidence. After arguing with two Legion administrators, Mr. Nance wrote a "counterintelligence" report trying to get them fired. Central to that report is an accusation that one Legion official, Emese Abigail Fayk, fraudulently tried to buy a house on an Australian reality TV show with money she didn't have. He labeled her "a potential Russian spy," offering no evidence. Ms. Fayk denied the accusations and remains with the Legion.

Mr. Nance said that as a member of the Legion with an intelligence background, when he developed concerns, he "felt an obligation to report this to Ukrainian counterintelligence."

The dispute goes to the heart of who can be trusted to speak for and raise money for the Legion.

Mr. Nance has left Ukraine but continues fund-raising with a new group of allies. One of them, Ben Lackey, is a former Legion member. He told his fellow volunteers that he was once a Marine and wrote on LinkedIn that he had most recently been an assistant manager at LongHorn Steakhouse. In fact, the Pentagon said he had no military experience (and he worked as a server, the steakhouse said).

In an interview, Mr. Lackey said that he had lied about being a U.S. Marine so he could join the Legion.

With Legion growth stalling, Ryan Routh, a former construction worker from Greensboro, N.C., is seeking recruits from among Afghan soldiers who fled the Taliban. Mr. Routh, who spent several months in Ukraine last year, said he planned to move them, in some cases illegally, from Pakistan and Iran to Ukraine. He said dozens had expressed interest.

"We can probably purchase some passports through Pakistan, since it's such a corrupt country," he said in an interview from Washington.

It is not clear whether he has succeeded, but one former Afghan soldier said he had been contacted and was interested in fighting if it meant leaving Iran, where he was living illegally.

#### Misdirected Donations

Grady Williams, a 65-year-old retired engineer with no military experience and a methamphetamine conviction from 2019, was a volunteer tour guide at Ronald Reagan's Santa Barbara ranch when he heard Mr. Zelensky's plea for volunteers.

"I shot rifles since I was 13," he said in an interview. "I had no excuse to say, 'Well, I shouldn't go.'"

He said he had flown to Poland, hitchhiked to Ukraine and taken a train to Kyiv. He bumped into two Americans in military-looking gear. "They said, 'Dude, come with us,'" he said.

The volunteers brought Mr. Williams to a base near the front and gave him a gun. Days later, he said, he was nearly blown up while fighting alongside Ukrainian soldiers from a trench near Bucha. Within a week, the military realized that he had not registered to fight and sent him back to Kyiv.

From there, he took a circuitous path that ended in raising money for volunteers from the Republic of Georgia. He raised about \$16,000, telling donors that their money would buy electric motorcycles for fighters. But the Georgians kicked him out after he got into a conflict with another volunteer. He said he had spent about \$6,900 of the contributions on down payments for motorbikes and the rest on his travel and other expenses.

Grady Williams in his garage in Santa Barbara, Calif., last month. "I shot rifles since I was 13," he said of his decision to go to Ukraine. "I had no excuse to say, 'Well, I shouldn't go.'" Credit...David Butow for The New York Times

He has since linked up with a new group, which he said had promised him command of a motorcycle unit if he raised enough money. So he moved this month to Odesa, Ukraine, he said, and expects to deliver a single motorbike soon.

Examples of wasted money in the hands of well-intentioned people are common. Mriya Aid, a group led by an active-duty Canadian lieutenant colonel, spent about \$100,000 from donors on high-tech U.S.-style night-vision devices. They ended up being less-effective Chinese models, internal documents show.

"We experienced a problem with the night vision," said Lubomyr Chabursky, a volunteer on Mriya Aid's leadership team. But he said the purchase made up only 2 percent of the group's total expenditures.

Earlier this year, the Mozart Group, which two former Marines established to help Ukraine, disbanded after one sued the other, alleging theft and harassment.

#### Absent Paper Trail

Last spring, a volunteer group called Ripley's Heroes said it had spent approximately \$63,000 on night-vision and thermal optics. Some of the equipment was subject to American export restrictions because, in the wrong hands, it could give enemies a battlefield advantage.

Frontline volunteers said Ripley's delivered the equipment to Ukraine without required documentation listing the actual buyers and recipients. Recently, the federal authorities began investigating the shipments, U.S. officials said.

In his defense, the group's founder, a retired U.S. Marine named Lt. Col. Hunter Ripley Rawlings IV, provided deal documents to The Times. But those records show that, just as the volunteers said, Ripley's was not disclosed to the State Department as the buyer.

Ripley's says it has raised over \$1 million, some of it thanks to the former Connecticut contractor, Mr. Vasquez, who claimed to be the group's chief strategy officer and promoted Ripley's to his online audience.

Ripley's spent about \$25,000 on remote-control reconnaissance cars last year, but they never arrived, shipping records show. Colonel Rawlings said the Polish authorities had held them up over legal concerns.

Colonel Rawlings has said that his group was awaiting American nonprofit status. But he has not revealed his spending or proof of a nonprofit application to The Times or to donors who have asked. So it is not clear where the money is going. "I believed these guys," said Shaun Stants, who said he had organized a fund-raiser in October in Pittsburgh but was never shown the financial records he asked for. "And they took me for a fool."

Corporate records in Poland and the United States show that Colonel Rawlings also started a for-profit company called Iron Forge. In an interview, he said he expected his charity and others to pay Iron Forge for transportation, meaning that donor money would be used to finance his private venture. But he said no conflict of interest existed because Iron Forge would ultimately send money back to the charities. Details are being worked out, he said.

In the days after The Times approached Mr. Vasquez and others, members of the squabbling groups — Ripley's, the Legion, the dissident Legion members and more — escalated their feud. They accused one another of misappropriating funds and lying about their credentials.

After a former ally turned on Mr. Vasquez, Mr. Nance came to his defense.

"James was NOT fake, he was troubled," Mr. Nance said on Twitter. "He did a lot for Ukraine but has challenges to face."

<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/03/25/world/europe/volunteers-us-ukraine-lies.html>

Get Outlook for iOS

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**From:** [REDACTED] (b)(6) Kyiv)  
**Sent:** Tue, 11 Jun 2024 12:26:28 +0000  
**To:** Kyiv, Front Office Paper; [REDACTED] (b)(6) (Kyiv)  
**Cc:** Kyiv PROTOCOL  
**Subject:** RE: Correspondence Tasker: 2024- 127 - [REDACTED] (b)(6) and Ryan Routh letter

Dear Protocol,

[REDACTED] (b)(5) Thank you.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED] (b)(6)  
Colonel, U.S. Air Force  
Air Attache  
U.S. Embassy Kyiv, Ukraine

[REDACTED] (b)(6)@state.gov  
[REDACTED] (b)(6)

---

**From:** Kyiv, Front Office Paper <KyivFrontOfficePaper@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 11, 2024 11:40 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED] (b)(6)@state.gov; [REDACTED] (b)(6)@state.gov  
**Cc:** Kyiv PROTOCOL <KYIVPROTOCOL@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Correspondence Tasker: 2024- 127 - [REDACTED] (b)(6) and Ryan Routh letter  
**Importance:** Low

DUE DATE: Wednesday, June 12, 2024

EXECUTIVE TASKERS:

[ACCESS TASK HERE](#)

**This link contains correspondence received by the Ambassador or DCM, and is being tasked for your action or situational awareness.**

**Direct Response:** As you deem appropriate, please respond directly from your office to the individual, on behalf of the Ambassador or DCM.

Please update Executive Office and Protocol ([Kyiv\\_EXEC@state.gov](mailto:Kyiv_EXEC@state.gov) (CC [KyivProtocol@state.gov](mailto:KyivProtocol@state.gov))) when a response has been sent, so we can mark the tasking as completed.

**Draft Text for Ambassador:** If you determine a response sent directly from the Ambassador is required, please send draft text to [KyivFrontOfficePaper@state.gov](mailto:KyivFrontOfficePaper@state.gov), using designated style guide and formats.

**Info Only:** Some correspondence is passed only for your awareness, noted in the comments section as for “your information only”—this does NOT require any response from you.

If you feel this tasking is incorrect or have additional questions, please email Protocol Assistants at

KyivProtocol@state.gov .

Thank you,

Embassy Kyiv Front Office Staff



**From:** Cheung, Eric  
**Sent:** Mon, 16 Sep 2024 07:53:06 +0000  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Re: CNN Taiwan enquiry

Hi (b)(6)

Thanks for the heads up - I've just added you on Signal and sent you a message there. Would love to stay in touch there as well.

I wasn't able to find your profile on LINE but my ID is eric.cheungwc

Cheers,

Eric

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 16, 2024 3:48 PM  
**To:** Cheung, Eric <eric.cheung@cnn.com>  
**Subject:** RE: CNN Taiwan enquiry

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Caution opening links or attachments**

Hi Eric,

Just realized I don't have your signal/line, and sorry for just getting back to you. I'm trying to see if we'll have anything for you by COB, but best guess is that we won't be able to get something back to you in time. I'll see if we can give DC a heads up, though, and maybe they'll be able to respond via SPOX / EAP Press.

Best,

(b)(6)

(b)(6) Spokesperson  
Public Diplomacy Section  
American Institute in Taiwan  
[www.ait.org.tw](http://www.ait.org.tw)  
Tel: (b)(6)  
Signal: +1-850-872-0000  
Line: +886 937 852 743

---

**From:** Cheung, Eric <eric.cheung@cnn.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 16, 2024 2:32 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** CNN Taiwan enquiry

Hey (b)(6)

We'd like to seek a comment from the AIT on Ryan Wesley Routh, who was accused of an apparent assassination attempt on former president Donald Trump.

We've seen media reports that Routh was a staunch advocate of Taiwan and even founded a "Taiwan Foreign Legion" where he wanted to recruit foreign fighters to defend Taiwan.

<https://taiwanforeignlegion.com/>

We would like to know:

- Was the AIT aware of Routh's advocacy in setting up a Taiwan Foreign Legion in Taiwan?
- Was Routh ever in touch with the AIT about this purported foreign legion?

Many thanks in advance. We would be much appreciated if you could let us know if this is something the AIT would comment on by the end of today.

Cheers,  
Eric

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Tue, 31 Oct 2023 06:49:57 +0000  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: Can we have an open line of communication for the Afghan soldier project

Sure, (b)(6) will do.

Best wishes,

(b)(6)

---

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 31, 2023 8:49 AM  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov  
**Cc:** (b)(6)@state.gov  
**Subject:** FW: Can we have an open line of communication for the Afghan soldier project

Dear (b)(6) can you please put it in the Correspondence Tracker and forward to DAO and POL? Thank you!

With deep respect,

(b)(6)

Chief of Protocol

U.S. Embassy in Ukraine

mob. (b)(6)

---

**From:** Kyiv, ACS <KyivACS@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 31, 2023 2:15 AM  
**To:** Kyiv PROTOCOL <KYIVPROTOCOL@state.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: Can we have an open line of communication for the Afghan soldier project

Dear ladies,

I honestly tried to handle this request myself, (b)(6) must be swamped as he never answered. Will you take a look at the letter attached and see what can be done if anything?

Thank you and have a nice day,

(b)(6)

---

**From:** Kyiv, ACS  
**Sent:** Monday, October 30, 2023 11:02 AM  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov  
**Subject:** FW: Can we have an open line of communication for the Afghan soldier project

(b)(6) hi,

(b)(5)

Thank you!

(b)(6)

**From:** Ryan Routh <[aid.in.ukraine@gmail.com](mailto:aid.in.ukraine@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Monday, October 30, 2023 4:27 AM

**To:** Kyiv, ACS <[KyivACS@state.gov](mailto:KyivACS@state.gov)>

**Subject:** Can we have an open line of communication for the Afghan soldier project

Dear Bridget Brink,

Attached is a letter requesting some sort of means of communication so that we can find a way to start the Afghan soldier project for Ukraine.

Can you please allocate some spokesperson to be the liaison for this project so that we can get you the accounting documents that you desire to get the soldiers to the front line. We have thousands of Afghan soldiers begging every day for the slightest bit of hope and meaning in life to be useful again and all we need to do is to give these soldiers a pathway to Ukraine.

We all want this project to work and all we need to do is talk to fix all the minor issues that are holding up this project. A simple conference call and we can resolve all of the issues.

Please help me get this started. This is a critical time and we must act.

Thanks, Ryan

Ryan Routh

International Volunteer Center

(b)(6) MSM, Signal, WhatsApp, Telegram, Viber

[FightforUkraine.com.ua](http://FightforUkraine.com.ua) [Killed-in-Ukraine.com](http://Killed-in-Ukraine.com)

Coalition forces spend 3 trillion dollars and 15 years training 300,000 soldiers that we must use to defeat Russia.

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Tue, 21 Nov 2023 18:49:56 +0330  
**To:** AfghanSIVApplication  
**Subject:** Re: Automatic reply: (b)(6) **Attn:** (b)(6) (b)(3); (b)(6)  
**Attachments:** (b)(3); (b)(6)

(b)(3); (b)(6)

<CANVCAfghanSIVApplication@state.gov> نوشت:

Dear Sir/Madam:

Thank you for your email to the National Visa Center (NVC). NVC understands the situation in Afghanistan, and we will review your email as quickly as we can. Afghan nationals who are eligible for the SIV program who have not yet done so, are encouraged to submit one complete application package to NVC to facilitate processing in an expeditious manner. Please refer to Special Immigrant Visas for Afghan Who Were Employed by/on Behalf of the U.S. Government for more information regarding what is required to apply. We will review and reply to your e-mail in the order that it was received.

**Note:** You are required to provide the following information with each inquiry to receive a case-specific response. If you did not provide the following information with your e-mail, please resubmit the e-mail with the required information.

**REQUIRED INFORMATION:**

- Name of the person submitting the inquiry
- NVC case number or USCIS receipt number
- In the email subject line: Principal Applicant's name as written in the passport or tazkera, and date of birth in the DAY MONTH YEAR format. (e.g. John Doe, 31/01/1980)

If you submitted an application for Chief of Mission approval for the Special Immigrant Visa program to [AfghanSIVApplication@state.gov](mailto:AfghanSIVApplication@state.gov) **before December 23, 2016**, the required documents are:

- 1) Verification of Employment in Afghanistan (HR Letter);
- 2) Letter of Recommendation (From Direct Supervisor);
- 3) Form DS-157;
- 4) Evidence of Afghan Nationality (Passport or Tazkera);
- 5) Biographic Data for principal applicant;
- 6) Statement of Threats; and
- 7) Employee Badge.

Additional information that describes what must be included in the documents above may be found on our website at <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/immigrate/special-immg-visa-afghans-employed-us-gov.html>.

**If you are submitting a new Chief of Mission application on or after December 23, 2016, please monitor our website at: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/immigrate/special-immg-visa-afghans-employed-us-gov.html> for information.**

Regards,

**The NVC Special Immigrant Visa Unit**

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(3); (b)(6)

**From:** Bunche Library Help  
**Sent:** Tue, 7 Nov 2023 20:54:46 +0000 (GMT)  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov  
**Cc:** (b)(6)@state.gov  
**Subject:** RE: Article request [ ref:!00D300mqyv.!5003d09oas8:ref ]  
**Attachments:** Stolen Valor - The U.S. Volunteers in Ukraine Who Lie, Waste and Bicker.pdf

(b)(6)

Thanks for contacting the Library.

Here is a link to the story in the database with NYT content that we discussed: <https://www.proquest.com/newspapers/stolen-valor-u-s-volunteers-ukraine-who-lie-waste/docview/2790419042/se-2?accountid=14741>. You can access it as long as you are on OpenNet or GO. But I'm also attaching a PDF of the story.

Unfortunately we don't have a way for you to access the NYT website directly. But here is a list of all the things that we do provide access to: <https://state.libguides.com/friendly.php?s=populararticles>

Let us know if you have any other questions.

(b)(6)

Research Librarian  
Ralph J. Bunche Library

----- Original Message -----

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov]  
**Sent:** 11/7/2023 3:45 PM  
**To:** libraryhelp@state.gov  
**Cc:** (b)(6)@state.gov  
**Subject:** RE: Article request

Hi – The article linked below concerns efforts by western “volunteers” to fight in Ukraine, or help move equipment and supplies to Ukraine, or in one case transport foreign fighters to Ukraine. I’m particularly interested in the references to “Ryan Routh” and “International Volunteer Corps.” (b)(5)

Thanks,



(b)(6)

Political-Military Unit Chief

U.S. Embassy Kyiv, Department of State

Mobile, Signal, WhatsApp: 

(b)(6)

**SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED**

---

**From:**

(b)(6)

  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 7, 2023 10:39 PM  
**To:** Library Help <LibraryHelp@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Article request

Dear Bunche Library: could you please send a copy of this article to me?  
<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/03/25/world/europe/volunteers-us-ukraine-lies.html>

(b)(5)

 If there's a quick way to pull these articles, or a way I can do this myself without bothering you, please let me know.

Best wishes,

(b)(6)

Political-Military Unit Chief

U.S. Embassy Kyiv, Department of State

Mobile, Signal, WhatsApp: 

(b)(6)



ref:!00D300mqyv.!5003d09oas8:ref

# Stolen Valor: The U.S. Volunteers in Ukraine Who Lie, Waste and Bicker

Scheck, Justin; Gibbons-Neff, Thomas

[ProQuest document link](#)

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**FULL TEXT**



Enlarge this image.

KYIV, Ukraine —They rushed to Ukraine by the thousands, many of them Americans who promised to bring military experience, money or supplies to the battleground of a righteous war. Hometown newspapers hailed their

commitment, and donors backed them with millions of dollars.

Now, after a year of combat, many of these homespun groups of volunteers are fighting with themselves and undermining the war effort. Some have wasted money or stolen valor. Others have cloaked themselves in charity while also trying to profit off the war, records show.

One retired Marine lieutenant colonel from Virginia is the focus of a U.S. federal investigation into the potentially illegal export of military technology. A former Army soldier arrived in Ukraine only to turn traitor and defect to Russia. A Connecticut man who lied about his military service has posted live updates from the battlefield—including his exact location—and boasted about his easy access to American weaponry. A former construction worker is hatching a plan to use fake passports to smuggle in fighters from Pakistan and Iran.

And in one of the more curious entanglements, one of the largest volunteer groups is embroiled in a power struggle involving an Ohio man who falsely claimed to have been both a U.S. Marine and a LongHorn Steakhouse assistant manager. The dispute also involves a years-old incident on Australian reality TV.

Such characters have a place in Ukraine's defense because of the arms-length role the United States has taken: The Biden administration sends weapons and money but not professional troops. That means people who would not be allowed anywhere near the battlefield in a U.S.-led war are active on the Ukrainian front—often with unchecked access to weapons and military equipment.

Many of the volunteers who hurried to Ukraine did so selflessly and acted with heroism. Some have lost their lives. Foreigners have rescued civilians, aided the wounded and fought ferociously alongside Ukrainians. Others raised money for crucial supplies.

But in Europe's largest land war since 1945, the do-it-yourself approach does not discriminate between trained volunteers and those who lack the skills or discipline to assist effectively.

The New York Times reviewed more than 100 pages of documents from inside volunteer groups and interviewed more than 30 volunteers, fighters, fundraisers, donors, and U.S. and Ukrainian officials. Some spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive information.

The interviews and research reveal a series of deceptions, mistakes and squabbles that have hindered the volunteer drive that began after Russia's full-scale invasion in February 2022, when President Volodymyr Zelenskyy of Ukraine called for help. "Every friend of Ukraine who wants to join Ukraine in defending the country, please come over," he said. "We will give you weapons."

Thousands answered the call. Some joined military groups like the International Legion, which Ukraine formed for foreign fighters. Others took roles in support or fundraising. With Kyiv, Ukraine's capital, under attack, there was little time for vetting arrivals. So people with problematic pasts, including checkered or fabricated military records, became entrenched in the Legion and a constellation of other volunteer groups.

Asked about these problems, the Ukrainian military did not address specific issues but did say it was on guard because Russian agents regularly tried to infiltrate volunteer groups. "We investigated such cases and handed them over to law enforcement agencies," said Andriy Cherniak, a representative for Ukrainian military intelligence.

#### **'A Million Lies'**

One of the best-known Americans on the battlefield is James Vasquez. Days after the invasion, Vasquez, a Connecticut home-improvement contractor, announced he was leaving for Ukraine. His local newspaper told the tale of a former U.S. Army staff sergeant who left behind his job and family and picked up a rifle and a rucksack on the front line.

Since then, he has posted battlefield videos online, at least once broadcasting his unit's precise location to everyone, including the opposing side. He used his story to solicit donations. "I was in Kuwait during Desert Storm, and I was in Iraq after 9/11," Vasquez said in a fundraising video. He added, "This is a whole different animal."

Vasquez, in fact, was never deployed to Kuwait, Iraq or anywhere else, a Pentagon spokesperson said. He specialized in fuel and electrical repairs. And he left the Army Reserve not as a sergeant as he claimed, but as a private first class, one of the Army's lowest ranks.

Still, Vasquez had easy access to weapons, including American rifles. Where did they come from? "I'm not exactly

sure," Vasquez said in a text message. The rifles, he added, were "brand-new, out of the box and we have plenty." He also tweeted that he should not have to worry about international rules of war while in Ukraine. He fought alongside Da Vinci's Wolves, a Ukrainian far-right battalion, until this past week, when the Times asked about his false military service claims. He immediately deactivated his Twitter account and said he might leave Ukraine because authorities discovered he was fighting without a required military contract. Vasquez said he had been misrepresenting his military record for decades. He acknowledged being kicked out of the Army but would not talk publicly about why. "I had to tell a million lies to get ahead," Vasquez said in an interview. "I didn't realize it was going to come to this."

### Public Quarrels

The International Legion, hastily formed by the Ukrainian government, spent 10 minutes or less checking each volunteer's background early in the war, one Legion official said. So a Polish fugitive who had been jailed in Ukraine for weapon violations got a position leading troops. Soldiers told The Kyiv Independent that he misappropriated supplies, harassed women and threatened his soldiers.

Ukrainian officials initially boasted of 20,000 potential Legion volunteers, but far fewer actually enlisted. Currently, there are around 1,500 members in the organization, say people with knowledge of the Legion.

Some are experienced fighters working as part of the Defense Intelligence of Ukraine.

But there have been high-profile problems. A former Army private first class, John McIntyre, was ejected from the Legion for bad behavior. McIntyre defected to Russia and recently appeared on state-run television, which said he provided military intelligence to Moscow.

Internal documents show that the Legion is struggling. Recruitment has stagnated. The Washington-based Counter Extremism Project wrote in March that the Legion and affiliated groups "continue to feature individuals widely seen as unfit to perform their duties."

Malcolm Nance, a former Navy cryptologist and MSNBC commentator, arrived in Ukraine last year and made a plan to bring order and discipline to the Legion. Instead, he became enmeshed in the chaos.

Nance, whose TV appearances have made him one of the most visible Americans supporting Ukraine, was an experienced military operator. He drafted a code of honor for the organization and, by all accounts, donated equipment.

Today, Nance is involved in a messy, distracting power struggle. Often, that plays out on Twitter, where Nance taunted one former ally as "fat" and an associate of "a verified con artist."

He accused a pro-Ukraine fundraising group of fraud, providing no evidence. After arguing with two Legion administrators, Nance wrote a "counterintelligence" report trying to get them fired. Central to that report is an accusation that one Legion official, Emese Abigail Fayk, fraudulently tried to buy a house on an Australian reality TV show with money she didn't have. He labeled her "a potential Russian spy," offering no evidence. Fayk denied the accusations and remains with the Legion.

Nance said that as a member of the Legion with an intelligence background, when he developed concerns, he "felt an obligation to report this to Ukrainian counterintelligence."

The dispute goes to the heart of who can be trusted to speak for and raise money for the Legion.

Nance has left Ukraine but continues fundraising with a new group of allies. One of them, Ben Lackey, is a former Legion member. He told his fellow volunteers that he was once a Marine and wrote on LinkedIn that he had most recently been an assistant manager at LongHorn Steakhouse. In fact, the Pentagon said he had no military experience (and he worked as a server, the steakhouse said).

In an interview, Lackey said that he lied about being a U.S. Marine so he could join the Legion.

With Legion growth stalling, Ryan Routh, a former construction worker from Greensboro, North Carolina, is seeking recruits from among Afghan soldiers who fled the Taliban. Routh, who spent several months in Ukraine last year, said he planned to move them, in some cases illegally, from Pakistan and Iran to Ukraine. He said dozens had expressed interest.

"We can probably purchase some passports through Pakistan since it's such a corrupt country," he said in an



interview from Washington.

It is not clear if he has succeeded, but one former Afghan soldier said he had been contacted and was interested in fighting if it meant leaving Iran, where he was living illegally.

### **Misdirected Donations**

Grady Williams, a 65-year-old retired engineer with no military experience and a methamphetamine conviction from 2019, was a volunteer tour guide at Ronald Reagan's Santa Barbara ranch when he heard Zelenskyy's plea for volunteers.

"I shot rifles since I was 13," he said in an interview. "I had no excuse to say, 'Well, I shouldn't go.'"

He said he flew to Poland, hitchhiked to Ukraine and took a train to Kyiv. He bumped into two Americans in military-looking gear. "They said 'Dude, come with us,'" he said.

The volunteers brought Williams to a base near the front and gave him a gun. Days later, he said, he was nearly blown up while fighting alongside Ukrainian soldiers from a trench near Bucha. Within a week, the military realized that he had not registered to fight and sent him back to Kyiv.

From there, he took a circuitous path that ended in raising money for volunteers from the Republic of Georgia. He raised about \$16,000, telling donors their money would buy electric motorcycles for fighters. But the Georgians kicked him out after he got into a conflict with another volunteer. He said he spent about \$6,900 of the contributions on down payments for motorbikes and the rest on his travel and other expenses.

He has since linked up with a new group, which he said promised him command of a motorcycle unit if he raised enough money. So he moved this month to Odesa, Ukraine, he said, and expects to deliver a single motorbike soon. Examples of wasted money in the hands of well-intentioned people are common. Mriya Aid, a group led by an active-duty Canadian lieutenant colonel, spent around \$100,000 from donors on high-tech U.S.-style night-vision devices. They ended up being less-effective Chinese models, internal documents show.

"We experienced a problem with the night vision," said Lubomyr Chabursky, a volunteer on Mriya Aid's leadership team. But he said the purchase represented only 2% of the aid the group had provided.

Earlier this year, the Mozart Group, which two former Marines established to help Ukraine, disbanded after one sued the other, alleging theft and harassment.

### **Absent Paper Trail**

Last spring, a volunteer group called Ripley's Heroes said it spent approximately \$63,000 on night-vision and thermal optics. Some of the equipment was subject to American export restrictions because, in the wrong hands, it could give enemies a battlefield advantage.

Front-line volunteers said Ripley's delivered the equipment to Ukraine without required documentation listing the actual buyers and recipients. Recently, federal authorities began investigating the shipments, U.S. officials said. In his defense, the group's founder, a retired U.S. Marine named Lt. Col. Hunter Ripley Rawlings IV, provided deal documents to the Times. But those records show that, just as the volunteers said, Ripley's was not disclosed to the State Department as the buyer.

Ripley's says it has raised over \$1 million, some of it thanks to the former Connecticut contractor, Vasquez, who claimed to be the group's chief strategy officer and promoted Ripley's to his online audience.

Ripley's spent around \$25,000 on remote-control reconnaissance cars last year, but they never arrived, shipping records show. Rawlings said Polish authorities held them up over legal concerns.

Rawlings has said that his group is awaiting American nonprofit status. But he has not revealed his spending or proof of a nonprofit application to the Times or to donors who have asked. So it is not clear where the money is going. "I believed these guys," said Shaun Stants, who said he organized a fundraiser in October in Pittsburgh but was never shown the financial records he asked for. "And they took me for a fool."

Corporate records in Poland and the U.S. show that Rawlings also started a for-profit company called Iron Forge. In an interview, he said he expected his charity and others to pay Iron Forge for transportation, meaning donor money would be used to finance his private venture. But he said no conflict of interest existed because Iron Forge would ultimately send money back to the charities. Details are being worked out, he said.

In the days after the Times approached Vasquez and others, members of the squabbling groups —Ripley's, the Legion, the dissident Legion members and more —escalated their feud. They accused one another of misappropriating funds and lying about their credentials.

After a former ally turned on Vasquez, Nance came to his defense.

"James was NOT fake, he was troubled," Nance said on Twitter. "He did a lot for Ukraine but has challenges to face."

This article originally appeared in The New York Times.

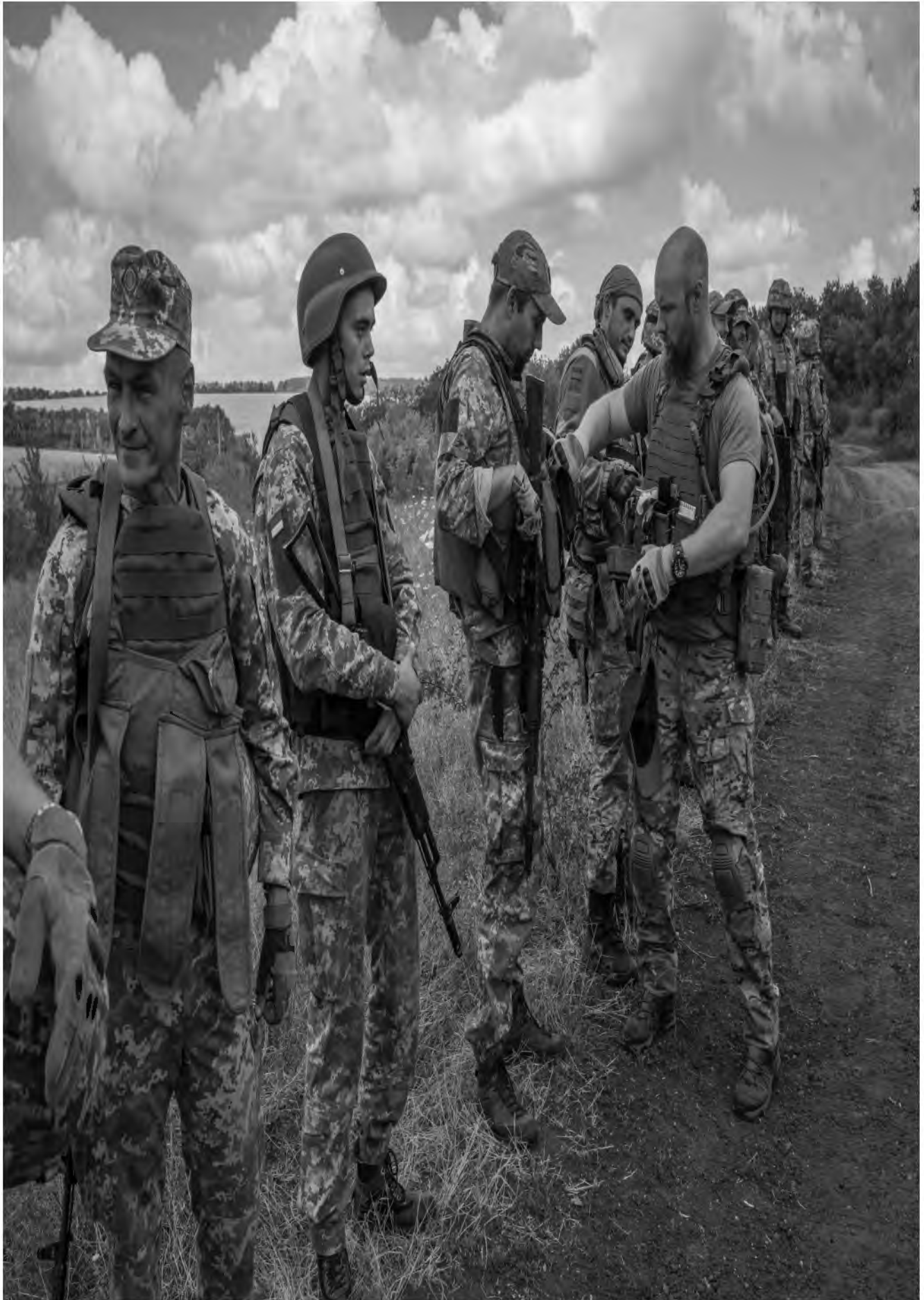


Enlarge this image.





Enlarge this image.



[Enlarge this image.](#)

## DETAILS

Subject:	Fund raising; Military service; Weapons; Intelligence gathering; Donations; Military technology; Reality programming; Military intelligence; Volunteers; Military personnel; Armed forces
Business indexing term:	Subject: Donations
Location:	Connecticut; Russia; New York; United States--US; Iraq; Iran; Kuwait; Kyiv Ukraine; Pakistan; Ukraine
Identifier / keyword:	House Of Representatives; Msnbc; Greensboro (Nc); Pentagon Building; New Group Theater Co; Mozart Group Llc; Firearms; Washington (Dc); New York Times; United States; Automobile Safety Features And Defects; Ukraine; Reality Television; LinkedIn Corporation; Defense Contracts; Canada; International Trade And World Market; Georgia; Philanthropy; Liver; Georgia (Georgian Republic); Politics And Government; Kuwait; Automobiles; Suits And Litigation (Civil); Nonprofit Organizations; Embezzlement; Santa Barbara (Calif); Espionage And Intelligence Services; Fugitives; Iran; Europe; Embargoes And Sanctions; Social Media; Washington (Ga); Washington (Conn); Do It Yourself; North Carolina; Defense And Military Forces; Ohio; Defense Department; Threats And Threatening Messages; United States Politics And Government; Connecticut; Discrimination; Forgery; Poland; Lying; Actors And Actresses; World; Frauds And Swindling; International Relations; News And News Media; Federal Budget (Us); Twitter; Volunteers And Community Service; Pakistan; Electric And Hybrid Vehicles; Kyiv (Ukraine); Motorcycles, Motor Bikes And Motorscooters; Illegal Immigration; United States Navy; Irons And Ironing Boards; United States Marine Corps; United States Defense And Military Forces; Civilian Casualties; Newspapers; Remote Control Systems; Russian Invasion Of Ukraine (2022); Afghanistan; Bucha (Ukraine); Russia; Defectors (Political); Television; Virginia; Reserves (Military); Australia; Gun Control; Afghanistan War (2001 ); Reagan, Ronald Wilson; Iraq; Paper Trail (Rhineba ck, Ny, Retailer); Moscow (Russia); Odessa (Ukraine); September 11 (2001); Appointments And Executive Changes; Terrorism; Biden, Joseph R Jr; United States Army; Conflicts Of Interest
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**From:** Bunche Library Help  
**Sent:** Wed, 8 Nov 2023 13:39:04 +0000 (GMT)  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov  
**Cc:** (b)(6)@state.gov  
**Subject:** RE: Article request [ ref:!00D300mqyv.!5003d09oas8:ref ]

Glad we could help.

Let us know if you have any other questions.

(b)(6)

Research Librarian  
Ralph J. Bunche Library

----- Original Message -----

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov]  
**Sent:** 11/7/2023 4:26 PM  
**To:** libraryhelp@state.gov  
**Cc:** (b)(6)@state.gov  
**Subject:** RE: Article request [ ref:!00D300mqyv.!5003d09oas8:ref ]

This is a tremendous help – thanks for turning this around so quickly!

(b)(6)

Political-Military Unit Chief

U.S. Embassy Kyiv, Department of State

Mobile, Signal, WhatsApp: (b)(6)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

**From:** Bunche Library Help <libraryhelp@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 7, 2023 10:55 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>

**Cc:** [REDACTED] (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Article request [ ref:!00D300mqyv.!5003d09oas8:ref ]

[REDACTED] (b)(6)

Thanks for contacting the Library.

Here is a link to the story in the database with NYT content that we discussed: <https://www.proquest.com/newspapers/stolen-valor-u-s-volunteers-ukraine-who-lie-waste/docview/2790419042/se-2?accountid=14741>. You can access it as long as you are on OpenNet or GO. But I'm also attaching a PDF of the story.

Unfortunately we don't have a way for you to access the NYT website directly. But here is a list of all the things that we do provide access to: <https://state.libguides.com/friendly.php?s=populararticles>

Let us know if you have any other questions.

[REDACTED] (b)(6)

Research Librarian  
Ralph J. Bunche Library

----- Original Message -----

**From:** [REDACTED] (b)(6)@state.gov]  
**Sent:** 11/7/2023 3:45 PM  
**To:** libraryhelp@state.gov  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] (b)(6)@state.gov  
**Subject:** RE: Article request

Hi – The article linked below concerns efforts by western “volunteers” to fight in Ukraine, or help move equipment and supplies to Ukraine, or in one case transport foreign fighters to Ukraine. I’m particularly interested in the references to “Ryan Routh” and “International Volunteer Corps.” [REDACTED] (b)(5)

Thanks,

[REDACTED] (b)(6)

Political-Military Unit Chief

U.S. Embassy Kyiv, Department of State

Mobile, Signal, WhatsApp: [REDACTED] (b)(6)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

---

**From:** [REDACTED] (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 7, 2023 10:39 PM  
**To:** Library Help <LibraryHelp@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Article request

Dear Bunche Library: could you please send a copy of this article to me?  
<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/03/25/world/europe/volunteers-us-ukraine-lies.html>

[REDACTED] (b)(5) If there's a quick way to pull these articles, or a way I can do this myself without bothering you, please let me know.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED] (b)(6)

Political-Military Unit Chief

U.S. Embassy Kyiv, Department of State

Mobile, Signal, WhatsApp: [REDACTED] (b)(6)

ref:!00D300mqyv.!5003d09oas8:ref





**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Mon, 16 Sep 2024 14:28:59 +0000  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: 23-0000539: Ryan Routh - DD Ltr 20240830

Will do



(b)(6)  
Law Enforcement Liaison | Directorate of Defense Trade Controls (PM/DDTC)  
Bureau of Political-Military Affairs | U.S. Department of State  
Cherokee Nation System Solutions  
Desk: (b)(6) Cell: (b)(6)  
e-mail: (b)(6)@state.gov | SIPR e-mail: (b)(6)@state.sgov.gov  
 <https://www.pmdtcc.state.gov> |  <https://twitter.com/StateDeptPM>

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**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 16, 2024 10:23 AM  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Cc:** (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: 23-0000539: Ryan Routh - DD Ltr 20240830

(b)(6) – Thanks for the update.

(b)(6) – please cc (b)(6) on any additional updates about Routh. I'm getting ready to head to the airport, and I'll be TDY through Wednesday.

---

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 16, 2024 9:37 AM  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>

**Cc:** [REDACTED]@state.gov>; [REDACTED]@state.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: 23-0000539: Ryan Routh - DD Ltr 20240830

[REDACTED]

Updated information on Mr. Routh. [REDACTED] (b)(5); (b)(7)(E) [REDACTED] (b)(5)

[REDACTED] (b)(5); (b)(7)(E)



[REDACTED] (b)(6)

Compliance Specialist

Directorate of Defense Trade Controls (PM/DDTC) | Office of Compliance (DTCC)

Bureau of Political-Military Affairs | U.S. Department of State

Contractor, DNI/Creative IT Solutions

Desk: [REDACTED] (b)(6) Cell: [REDACTED] (b)(6) Teams: [REDACTED] (b)(6)

e-mail [REDACTED]@state.gov | SIPR e-mail [REDACTED]@state.sgov.gov



<https://www.pmddtc.state.gov> | <https://twitter.com/StateDeptPM>

**From:** [REDACTED]@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 16, 2024 9:27 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]@state.gov>; [REDACTED]@state.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: 23-0000539: Ryan Routh - DD Ltr 20240830

[REDACTED] (b)(6)

Thanks for flagging. Let's discuss next week in the office.

Best,

[REDACTED] (b)(6)

**From:** [REDACTED]@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 16, 2024 7:40 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]@state.gov>; [REDACTED]@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: 23-0000539: Ryan Routh - DD Ltr 20240830

[REDACTED] (b)(5); (b)(7)(E)



(b)(6)

Senior Compliance Specialist | Directorate of Defense Trade Controls (PM/DDTC)  
Bureau of Political-Military Affairs | U.S. Department of State  
Desk: (b)(6) Cell: (b)(6) Teams: (b)(6)  
e-mail: (b)(6)@state.gov |  
SIPR e-mail: (b)(6)@state.sgov.gov

---

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 16, 2024 7:16:52 AM  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Cc:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: 23-0000539: Ryan Routh - DD Ltr 20240830

Noteworthy update on the subject of this directed disclosure (Ryan Routh). He appears to be the suspect in custody for an assassination attempt against a presidential candidate over the weekend.



(b)(6)

Compliance Specialist  
Directorate of Defense Trade Controls (PM/DDTC) | Office of Compliance (DTCC)  
Bureau of Political-Military Affairs | U.S. Department of State  
*Contractor, DNI/Creative IT Solutions*  
Desk: (b)(6) Cell: (b)(6) Teams: (b)(6)  
e-mail: (b)(6)@state.gov | SIPR e-mail: (b)(6)@state.sgov.gov  
🌐 <https://www.pmdtcc.state.gov> | 🐦 <https://twitter.com/StateDeptPM>

---

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Friday, August 30, 2024 1:20 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Cc:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** 23-0000539: Ryan Routh - DD Ltr 20240830

RE: **Clearance Request:** Directed Disclosure letter for Ryan Routh. Re: CC-0539-23

(b)(6); (b)(7)(E)



(b)(6)

Compliance Specialist

Directorate of Defense Trade Controls (PM/DDTC) | Office of Compliance (DTCC)

Bureau of Political-Military Affairs | U.S. Department of State

Contractor, DNI/Creative IT Solutions

Desk: (b)(6) Cell: (b)(6) Teams: (b)(6)

e-mail: (b)(6)@state.gov | SIPR e-mail: (b)(6)@state.sgov.gov

<https://www.pmddtc.state.gov> | <https://twitter.com/StateDeptPM>**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>**Sent:** Thursday, August 29, 2024 3:37 PM**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>**Subject:** RE: 23-0000539: Ryan Routh - DD Ltr 20240827

Hi (b)(6)

Clear with attached edits- Request that you leave comments in clean version that you send to

(b)(6)

Thanks,

(b)(6)



(b)(6)

Senior Compliance Specialist | Directorate of Defense Trade Controls (PM/DDTC)  
Bureau of Political-Military Affairs | U.S. Department of State

Desk: (b)(6) Cell: (b)(6) Teams: (b)(6)

e-mail: (b)(6)@state.gov | SIPR e-mail: (b)(6)@state.sgov.gov



<https://www.pmddtc.state.gov> |  <https://twitter.com/StateDeptPM>

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>

**Sent:** Tuesday, August 27, 2024 10:51 AM

**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>

**Subject:** 23-0000539: Ryan Routh - DD Ltr 20240827

**RE: Clearance Request:** Directed Disclosure letter for Ryan Routh. **Re:** CC-0539-23

(b)(5); (b)(7)(E)



(b)(6)

Compliance Specialist

Directorate of Defense Trade Controls (PM/DDTC) | Office of Compliance (DTCC)  
Bureau of Political-Military Affairs | U.S. Department of State

*Contractor, DNI/Creative IT Solutions*

Desk: (b)(6) Cell: (b)(6) Teams: (b)(6)

e-mail: (b)(6)@state.gov | SIPR e-mail: (b)(6)@state.sgov.gov



<https://www.pmddtc.state.gov> |  <https://twitter.com/StateDeptPM>

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Thu, 29 Aug 2024 19:37:05 +0000  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: 23-0000539: Ryan Routh - DD Ltr 20240827  
**Attachments:** 23-0000539 Ryan Routh DD Ltr. 20240829 RAM Clear.docx

Hi (b)(6)

Clear with attached edits- Request that you leave comments in clean version that you send to

(b)(6)

Thanks,

(b)(6)



(b)(6)

Senior Compliance Specialist | Directorate of Defense Trade Controls (PM/DDTC)

Bureau of Political-Military Affairs | U.S. Department of State

Desk: (b)(6) Cell: (b)(6) Teams: (b)(6)

e-mail: (b)(6)@state.gov | SIPR e-mail: (b)(6)@state.sgov.gov

 <https://www.pmddtc.state.gov> |  <https://twitter.com/StateDeptPM>

---

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 27, 2024 10:51 AM  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** 23-0000539: Ryan Routh - DD Ltr 20240827

RE: **Clearance Request:** Directed Disclosure letter for Ryan Routh. **Re:** CC-0539-23

(b)(5); (b)(7)(E)



(b)(6)

**Compliance Specialist**

Directorate of Defense Trade Controls (PM/DDTC) | Office of Compliance (DTCC)

Bureau of Political-Military Affairs | U.S. Department of State

*Contractor, DNI/Creative IT Solutions*

Desk: (b)(6) Cell: (b)(6) Teams: (b)(6)

e-mail: (b)(6)@state.gov | SIPR e-mail: (b)(6)@state.sgov.gov



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United States Department of State  
*Bureau of Political-Military Affairs*  
*Office of Defense Trade Controls Compliance*  
*Washington, D.C. 20522-0112*

(b)(5)



Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5); (b)(6)

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Thu, 9 Nov 2023 11:59:04 +0000  
**To:** (b)(6) Kyiv PROTOCOL  
**Cc:** (b)(6) (Kyiv)  
**Subject:** RE: (PROTOCOL) Correspondence Tasker: 2023- 155 - the Afghan soldier project  
**Attachments:** FW: Can we have an open line of communication for the Afghan soldier project

Dear (b)(6) I believe you can send the reply to:

Ryan Routh  
International Volunteer Center

(b)(6) MSM, Signal, WhatsApp, Telegram, Viber

[FightforUkraine.com.ua](https://fightforukraine.com.ua) [Killed-in-Ukraine.com](https://killed-in-ukraine.com)

Coalition forces spend 3 trillion dollars and 15 years training 300,000 soldiers that we must use to defeat Russia.

I enclose his initial e-mail request for your reference.

With deep respect,

(b)(6)

Chief of Protocol

U.S. Embassy in Ukraine

mob. (b)(6)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

---

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 9, 2023 1:49 PM  
**To:** Kyiv PROTOCOL <KYIVPROTOCOL@state.gov>  
**Cc:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** (PROTOCOL) Correspondence Tasker: 2023- 155 - the Afghan soldier project

Dear Protocol – regarding the correspondence referenced below, could you tell us what mailing address we would use to send a reply?

Thank you,

(b)(6)

Political-Military Unit Chief

U.S. Embassy Kyiv, Department of State

Mobile, Signal, WhatsApp: (b)(6)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

---

**From:** Kyiv, Front Office Paper <KyivFrontOfficePaper@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 31, 2023 2:41 PM

To: [redacted] (b)(6)@state.gov>; [redacted] (b)(6)@state.gov>; [redacted] (b)(6)@state.gov>; [redacted] (b)(6)@state.gov>; [redacted] (b)(6)@state.gov>  
Cc: Kyiv PROTOCOL <KYIVPROTOCOL@state.gov>  
Subject: Correspondence Tasker: 2023- 155 - the Afghan soldier project  
Importance: Low

DUE DATE: Tuesday, November 7, 2023

EXECUTIVE TASKERS:

[ACCESS TASK HERE](#)

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Thank you,

Embassy Kyiv Front Office Staff

**From:** Kyiv, ACS  
**Sent:** Tue, 31 Oct 2023 06:15:29 +0000  
**To:** Kyiv PROTOCOL  
**Subject:** FW: Can we have an open line of communication for the Afghan soldier project  
**Attachments:** US embassy- restart Afghan project.docx

Dear ladies,

I honestly tried to handle this request myself, (b)(6) must be swamped as he never answered. Will you take a look at the letter attached and see what can be done if anything?

Thank you and have a nice day,

(b)(6)

---

**From:** Kyiv, ACS  
**Sent:** Monday, October 30, 2023 11:02 AM  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov  
**Subject:** FW: Can we have an open line of communication for the Afghan soldier project

(b)(6) hi,

Could you please take a look at this request and let me know what you think? (b)(5)

(b)(5)

Thank you!

(b)(6)

---

**From:** Ryan Routh <aid.in.ukraine@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 30, 2023 4:27 AM  
**To:** Kyiv, ACS <KyivACS@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Can we have an open line of communication for the Afghan soldier project

Dear Bridget Brink,

Attached is a letter requesting some sort of means of communication so that we can find a way to start the Afghan soldier project for Ukraine.

Can you please allocate some spokesperson to be the liaison for this project so that we can get you the accounting documents that you desire to get the soldiers to the front line. We have thousands of Afghan soldiers begging every day for the slightest bit of hope and meaning in life to be useful again and all we need to do is to give these soldiers a pathway to Ukraine.

We all want this project to work and all we need to do is talk to fix all the minor issues that are holding up this project. A simple conference call and we can resolve all of the issues.

Please help me get this started. This is a critical time and we must act.

Thanks, Ryan

Ryan Routh  
International Volunteer Center

(b)(6) MSM, Signal, WhatsApp, Telegram, Viber

FightforUkraine.com.ua Killed-in-Ukraine.com

Coalition forces spend 3 trillion dollars and 15 years training 300,000 soldiers that we must use to defeat Russia.

October 29, 2023

US Embassy in Kyiv

4 Aircraft Designer St.

Kyiv, Ukraine 04112

Honorable Bridget Brink and Garrick Harmon,

I would like to respectfully ask why we cannot work one on one to pursue the Afghan soldier project?

I fully understand that your office does not need any unnecessary noise and correspondence that is not worthwhile; but I do not see how we can get these thousands of Afghan soldiers to the front lines without direct communication. Your staff has spoken with (b)(6) at great length and most recently had a meeting where he was asked to provide the execution details of the project as well as accounting of how funds would be allocated and spent and he failed to submit those documents to you. While I had hoped that he could produce these documents, if he could not, I had hoped that you would reach out to me so that I can supply what you need. I will gladly do whatever it takes to get you the information that you need from any number of Ukrainian agencies so that we can get this project done. I can be back in Ukraine at a moment's notice and arrange what you need. Because (b)(6) did not fulfill his obligation he is ashamed to give me any contact information since he dropped the ball. We have been discussing this and mailing documents and talking through (b)(6) for months so it seems only logical that we at least have an email address that we can work through to try and make this happen. When I went to Taiwan the personnel at AIT came right out and we had a meeting right then and there and discussed all the items and options without hesitation and any issues. If you can possibly assign a low level spokesman that can help with some simple emails that would be wonderful.

Currently (b)(6) is negotiating with GUR and they have requested that we assemble a complete battalion of 3000 Afghan soldiers that have passports so we are working on that currently. I am sending the leaders of the Afghans to Qatar to set up an office so that we can compile this list in safety away from the Taliban and Iran. As you may know, with Reznikov and Budanov we had an agreement to bring in 230 Afghan soldiers on a trial basis to join the International Legion, with plans for another 1000 and 2500 after that, but that fell apart with leadership changes and the constant begging for money. I have since mailed a package to Rustem Umerov and (b)(6) has met with Zelenskyy but no defined movement yet. With your simple partnership and encouragement I am certain that we together can iron out all of the minor issues and make this project a tremendous benefit for everyone.



**From:** [REDACTED] (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Thu, 9 Nov 2023 12:54:59 +0000  
**To:** [REDACTED] (b)(6) Kyiv); Kyiv PROTOCOL  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] (b)(6) Kyiv)  
**Subject:** RE: (PROTOCOL) Correspondence Tasker: 2023- 155 - the Afghan soldier project

Perfect – thank you!

[REDACTED] (b)(6)  
Political-Military Unit Chief  
U.S. Embassy Kyiv, Department of State  
Mobile, Signal, WhatsApp: [REDACTED] (b)(6)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

---

**From:** [REDACTED] (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 9, 2023 2:46 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED] (b)(6)@state.gov>; Kyiv PROTOCOL <KYIVPROTOCOL@state.gov>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: (PROTOCOL) Correspondence Tasker: 2023- 155 - the Afghan soldier project

The way I see it, it should be Ryan Routh <[aid.in.ukraine@gmail.com](mailto:aid.in.ukraine@gmail.com)>.

With deep respect,

[REDACTED] (b)(6)

U.S. Embassy in Ukraine  
mob. [REDACTED] (b)(6)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

---

**From:** [REDACTED] (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 9, 2023 2:31 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED] (b)(6)@state.gov>; Kyiv PROTOCOL <KYIVPROTOCOL@state.gov>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: (PROTOCOL) Correspondence Tasker: 2023- 155 - the Afghan soldier project

Thanks! And to confirm, is this the email address you would use: [AID.IN.UKRAINE@GMAIL.COM](mailto:AID.IN.UKRAINE@GMAIL.COM)

Or would it be some other?

[REDACTED] (b)(6)  
Political-Military Unit Chief  
U.S. Embassy Kyiv, Department of State  
Mobile, Signal, WhatsApp: [REDACTED] (b)(6)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

---

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 9, 2023 2:24 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov; Kyiv PROTOCOL <KYIVPROTOCOL@state.gov>  
**Cc:** (b)(6)@state.gov  
**Subject:** RE: (PROTOCOL) Correspondence Tasker: 2023- 155 - the Afghan soldier project

Yes.

With deep respect,

(b)(6)

Chief of Protocol

U.S. Embassy in Ukraine

mob. (b)(6)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

---

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 9, 2023 2:18 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov; Kyiv PROTOCOL <KYIVPROTOCOL@state.gov>  
**Cc:** (b)(6)@state.gov  
**Subject:** RE: (PROTOCOL) Correspondence Tasker: 2023- 155 - the Afghan soldier project

Hi (b)(6) (b)(5)

(b)(6)

Political-Military Unit Chief

U.S. Embassy Kyiv, Department of State

Mobile, Signal, WhatsApp: (b)(6)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

---

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 9, 2023 1:59 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov; Kyiv PROTOCOL <KYIVPROTOCOL@state.gov>  
**Cc:** (b)(6)@state.gov  
**Subject:** RE: (PROTOCOL) Correspondence Tasker: 2023- 155 - the Afghan soldier project

Dear (b)(6) I believe you can send the reply to:

Ryan Routh

International Volunteer Center

(b)(6) MSM, Signal, WhatsApp, Telegram, Viber

[FightforUkraine.com.ua](http://FightforUkraine.com.ua)    [Killed-in-Ukraine.com](http://Killed-in-Ukraine.com)

Coalition forces spend 3 trillion dollars and 15 years training 300,000 soldiers that we must use to defeat Russia.

I enclose his initial e-mail request for your reference.

With deep respect,

(b)(6)

Chief of Protocol

U.S. Embassy in Ukraine

mob. (b)(6)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

---

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>

**Sent:** Thursday, November 9, 2023 1:49 PM

**To:** Kyiv PROTOCOL <KYIVPROTOCOL@state.gov>

**Cc:** (b)(6)@state.gov>

**Subject:** (PROTOCOL) Correspondence Tasker: 2023- 155 - the Afghan soldier project

Dear Protocol – regarding the correspondence referenced below, could you tell us what mailing address we would use to send a reply?

Thank you,

(b)(6)

Political-Military Unit Chief

U.S. Embassy Kyiv, Department of State

Mobile, Signal, WhatsApp: (b)(6)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

---

**From:** Kyiv, Front Office Paper <KyivFrontOfficePaper@state.gov>

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 31, 2023 2:41 PM

**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)

(b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>

**Cc:** Kyiv PROTOCOL <KYIVPROTOCOL@state.gov>

**Subject:** Correspondence Tasker: 2023- 155 - the Afghan soldier project

**Importance:** Low

DUE DATE: Tuesday, November 7, 2023

EXECUTIVE TASKERS:

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Thank you,

Embassy Kyiv Front Office Staff

**From:** (b)(6)(Kyiv)  
**Sent:** Tue, 31 Oct 2023 20:15:23 +0000  
**To:** (b)(6); Kyiv DAO AMs  
**Cc:** (b)(6)(Kyiv)  
**Subject:** Re: (DAO) FW: Correspondence Tasker: 2023- 155 - the Afghan soldier project

(b)(5) I'll ask around tomorrow though.

(b)(6)  
ARMA, Kyiv  
Cell: (b)(6)  
Office: (b)(6)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 31, 2023 10:11:24 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>; Kyiv DAO AMs <KYIVDAOAMs@state.gov>  
**Cc:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: (DAO) FW: Correspondence Tasker: 2023- 155 - the Afghan soldier project

(b)(5) I have no idea who Ryan Routh is affiliated with.

(b)(6)  
Political-Military Unit Chief  
U.S. Embassy Kyiv, Department of State  
Mobile, Signal, WhatsApp: (b)(6)

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**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 31, 2023 10:10 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>; Kyiv DAO AMs <KYIVDAOAMs@state.gov>  
**Cc:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: (DAO) FW: Correspondence Tasker: 2023- 155 - the Afghan soldier project

(b)(6) (b)(5)

(b)(6)  
ARMA, Kyiv  
Cell: (b)(6)

Office: [REDACTED] (b)(6)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

---

**From:** [REDACTED] (b)(6)@state.gov>

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 31, 2023 10:03:12 PM

**To:** Kyiv DAO AMs <KYIVDAOAMs@state.gov>

**Cc:** [REDACTED] (b)(6)@state.gov>

**Subject:** (DAO) FW: Correspondence Tasker: 2023- 155 - the Afghan soldier project

DAO team - [REDACTED] (b)(5)

[REDACTED] (b)(5)

[REDACTED] (b)(5)

Thanks,

[REDACTED] (b)(6)

Political-Military Unit Chief

U.S. Embassy Kyiv, Department of State

Mobile, Signal, WhatsApp: [REDACTED] (b)(6)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

---

**From:** [REDACTED] (b)(6)@state.gov>

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 31, 2023 5:57 PM

**To:** [REDACTED] (b)(6)@state.gov>; [REDACTED] (b)(6) Kyiv

[REDACTED] (b)(6)@state.gov>

**Subject:** FW: Correspondence Tasker: 2023- 155 - the Afghan soldier project

**Importance:** Low

PM Team – could you all please work with DAO on recommending if/how to respond?

Thanks,

[REDACTED] (b)(6)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

---

**From:** Kyiv, Front Office Paper <KyivFrontOfficePaper@state.gov>

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 31, 2023 2:41 PM

**To:** [REDACTED] (b)(6)@state.gov>; [REDACTED] (b)(6)@state.gov>;

[REDACTED] (b)(6)@state.gov; [REDACTED] (b)(6)@state.gov

**Cc:** Kyiv PROTOCOL <KYIVPROTOCOL@state.gov>

**Subject:** Correspondence Tasker: 2023- 155 - the Afghan soldier project

**Importance:** Low

DUE DATE: Tuesday, November 7, 2023

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Thank you,

Embassy Kyiv Front Office Staff

**From:** (b)(6) (Kyiv)  
**Sent:** Wed, 8 Nov 2023 01:18:51 +0000  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Re: (b)(6) Correspondence Tasker: 2023- 155 - the Afghan soldier project  
**Attachments:** AM - Letter for Afgan Project - Copy.docx

(b)(6) - for your clearance attached or linked below, the AM re the Afan Project Letter.

Thanks for the feedback on this AM and OIs. In this case, I thought your were sharing the initial letter (b)(5)

(b)(5)

[AM - Letter for Afgan Project - Copy.docx](#)

Thank you,

(b)(6)

### ~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 7, 2023 11:23 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** (b)(6) Correspondence Tasker: 2023- 155 - the Afghan soldier project

Hi (b)(6) I entered edits at the link.

With correspondence, as with OIs, the key is to trace the information flow back to the original source, and then start googling and researching on your own. If you go back to the original email (in the chain below from Protocol) there are links to all the documents that were associated with this correspondence. There you can find out who sent the correspondence and what organization he is associated with. From there you, can google his name and his organization. This led me to the NYT article that you see referenced in my edits. I don't have an NYT subscription, so I could reach out either to PAS or to the Bunche library, or just go directly to the link the Bunche Library provided in the correspondence I cc'ed you on, and from that link, I can retrieve archived articles.

Please review the edits, clean up the tracked changes, and send back to me. (b)(5)

(b)(5)

Many thanks,

(b)(6)

Political-Military Unit Chief



U.S. Embassy Kyiv, Department of State  
Mobile, Signal, WhatsApp: [REDACTED] (b)(6)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

**From:** [REDACTED] (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 7, 2023 11:44 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED] (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: [REDACTED] (b)(6) Correspondence Tasker: 2023- 155 - the Afghan soldier project

[REDACTED] (b)(6) - attached/linked below is the Action Memo on the Afgan project, including a draft response letter for the Ambassador's consideration and the original letter as TABs 1 and 2. The only info missing is the name of the author of the letter which was not included in the letter you shared. Happy to add the name if you share it.

AM - Letter for Afgan Project.docx

[REDACTED] (b)(6)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

---

**From:** [REDACTED] (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 7, 2023 1:33 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED] (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** (CC) Correspondence Tasker: 2023- 155 - the Afghan soldier project

[REDACTED] (b)(6) - can you help me please? I'm getting slammed with Defense Forum stuff, just as the NATO stuff is reaching a crescendo. Can you please draft a reply letter and an action memo related to the attached and below correspondence that was addressed to the Ambassador?

[REDACTED] (b)(5)  
[REDACTED] (b)(5) if you could format a letter that says that, and write up an action memo for it by about 7pm Kyiv time on 11/7 (12noon DC), I can take it from there.

Thanks for your help,

(b)(6)

Political-Military Unit Chief

U.S. Embassy Kyiv, Department of State

Mobile, Signal, WhatsApp: (b)(6)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

**From:** (b)(6)

**Sent:** Saturday, November 4, 2023 4:00 PM

**To:** Kyiv PAS Americans <KyivPASAMs@state.gov>

**Cc:** (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6) (Kyiv)

(b)(6)@state.gov

**Subject:** (PAS) FW: Correspondence Tasker: 2023- 155 - the Afghan soldier project

**Importance:** Low

Colleagues - (b)(5); (b)(6)

(b)(5); (b)(6)

The subject of the letter is relocating Afghan fighters to fight on the frontlines for Ukraine...

Best wishes,

(b)(6)

Political-Military Unit Chief

U.S. Embassy Kyiv, Department of State

Mobile, Signal, WhatsApp: (b)(6)

**From:** (b)(6)

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 31, 2023 10:03 PM

**To:** Kyiv DAO AMs <KYIVDAOAMs@state.gov>

**Cc:** (b)(6) (Kyiv) (b)(6)@state.gov

**Subject:** (DAO) FW: Correspondence Tasker: 2023- 155 - the Afghan soldier project

**Importance:** Low

(b)(5)

Thanks,

(b)(6)  
Political-Military Unit Chief  
U.S. Embassy Kyiv, Department of State  
Mobile, Signal, WhatsApp: (b)(6) 109

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 31, 2023 5:57 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6) Kyiv  
(b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: Correspondence Tasker: 2023- 155 - the Afghan soldier project  
**Importance:** Low

PM Team – could you all please work with (b)(5) on recommending if/how to respond?

Thanks,  
(b)(6)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

**From:** Kyiv, Front Office Paper <KyivFrontOfficePaper@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 31, 2023 2:41 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>;  
(b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Cc:** Kyiv PROTOCOL <KYIVPROTOCOL@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Correspondence Tasker: 2023- 155 - the Afghan soldier project  
**Importance:** Low

DUE DATE: Tuesday, November 7, 2023

EXECUTIVE TASKERS:

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Thank you,

Embassy Kyiv Front Office Staff



*Embassy of the United States of America  
Kyiv, Ukraine*

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

November 8, 2023

**ACTION MEMO FOR AMBASSADOR BRINK**

FROM: POL – (b)(6)

THROUGH: DCM – Rob Needham

SUBJECT: ~~(SBU)~~ Correspondence Tasker: 2023- 155 - the Afghan soldier  
project

(b)(5)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

-2-

## Background

(b)(5); (b)(6)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

-3-

## CLEARANCES

Drafted: POL: (b)(6)

Approved: DCM: RNeedham ()

Cleared:

POL:

POL: (b)(6)

DAO: (b)(6)ok

**TAB 1**

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

-4-

October 29, 2023  
US Embassy in Kyiv  
4 Aircraft Designer St.  
Kyiv, Ukraine 04112

Honorable Bridget Brink and Garrick Harmon,

I would like to respectfully ask why we cannot work one on one to pursue the Afghan soldier project?

I fully understand that your office does not need any unnecessary noise and correspondence that is not worthwhile; but I do not see how we can get these thousands of Afghan soldiers to the front lines without direct communication. Your staff has spoken with [REDACTED] (b)(6) at great length and most recently had a meeting where he was asked to provide the execution details of the project as well as accounting of how funds would be allocated and spent and he failed to submit those documents to you. While I had hoped that he could produce these documents, if he could not, I had hoped that you would reach out to me so that I can supply what you need. I will gladly do whatever it takes to get you the information that you need from any number of Ukrainian agencies so that we can get this project done. I can be back in Ukraine at a moment's notice and arrange what you need. Because [REDACTED] (b)(6) did not fulfill his obligation he is ashamed to give me any contact information since he dropped the ball. We have been discussing this and mailing documents and talking through [REDACTED] (b)(6) for months so it seems only logical that we at least have an email address that we can work through to try and make this happen. When I went to Taiwan the personnel at AIT came right out and we had a meeting right then and there and discussed all the items and options without hesitation and any issues. If you

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~



~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

-5-

can possibly assign a low level spokesman that can help with some simple emails that would be wonderful.

Currently [REDACTED] (b)(6) is negotiating with GUR and they have requested that we assemble a complete battalion of 3000 Afghan soldiers that have passports so we are working on that currently. I am sending the leaders of the Afghans to Qatar to set up an office so that we can compile this list in safety away from the Taliban and Iran. As you may know, with Reznikov and Budanov we had an agreement to bring in 230 Afghan soldiers on a trial basis to join the International Legion, with plans for another 1000 and 2500 after that, but that fell apart with leadership changes and the constant begging for money. I have since mailed a package to Rustem Umerov and [REDACTED] (b)(6) has met with Zelenskyy but no defined movement yet. With your simple partnership and encouragement I am certain that we together can iron out all of the minor issues and make this project a tremendous benefit for everyone.

**TAB 2**~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

-6-

Kyiv, Ukraine  
November 8, 2023

Mr. Ryan Routh  
Address of Recipient

Dear Mr. Routh:

(b)(5)

Sincerely,

Bridget Brink

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Mon, 16 Sep 2024 12:47:27 +0300  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Peskov via Interfax

## Contents

- Putin to meet with Rospotrebnadzor head on Monday - Peskov
- The Kremlin said it is monitoring information coming from the U.S. and the situation between the political rivals is tense
- Peskov said possible connection of Trump assassin with Ukraine should be a concern of US intelligence services
- The Kremlin called Kiev's invitation of UN and Red Cross representatives to AFU-occupied settlements in Kursk Region a provocation.
- The Kremlin has not heard any official statements about Kiev's authorization to hit Russian Federation with Western weapons - Peskov

## RUSSIA-PRESIDENT-SCHEDULE

**09/16/2024 12:30:00 PM MSK**

Putin to meet with head of Rospotrebnadzor on Monday - Peskov

Moscow. September 16. INTERFAX - Russian President Vladimir Putin will meet with Rospotrebnadzor head Anna Popova on Monday, Russian presidential spokesman Dmitry Peskov said.

"Putin is working in the Kremlin. Today he has internal meetings and appointments. Yesterday was a professional holiday for Rospotrebnadzor employees. On this occasion, Anna Popova will make a report to the president," Peskov told reporters.

"She will talk about the work of such an important service for our society," he added.

## RUSSIA-USA-TRUMP

**09/16/2024 12:30:02 PM MSK**

The Kremlin said it is watching information coming from the U.S., the situation between the political rivals is tense

Moscow. September 16. INTERFAX - The Kremlin is monitoring information coming from the United States ahead of the presidential election and in connection with the second attempted assassination attempt on Donald Trump, Russian presidential spokesman Dmitry Peskov said.

"This is not really our business. We are observing the information that comes from the United States," Peskov told reporters, commenting on information about a second attempted assassination attempt on US presidential candidate Donald Trump.

He was clarified on how it could affect the US election.

"We see, there is a tense situation there, including between political rivals, the political struggle is escalating, different medes are involved. We are closely watching, but in no way interfered in this never interfered and do not interfere now," he added.

Earlier it became known that in Florida near the golf club, where Trump was, there was a shooting.

The incident is being investigated by the US Secret Service. According to its data, the shooting occurred around 14:00 local time (21:00 Moscow time).

The New York Post newspaper, citing sources, reported that the shooting "had nothing to do with Trump".

The CNN television channel informed, citing sources, that the armed man who opened fire at the golf club, planned to attack the former President of the United States.

In addition, according to CNN, the police detained one person. Police also recovered a long-barreled firearm at the scene.

As CNN notes, the US President and Vice President Joe Biden and Kamala Harris have been informed about the incident.

**RUSSIA-USA-TRUMP-ASSASSINATION-PESKOV**

**09/16/2024 12:31:24 PM MSK**

Peskov said the possible connection of Trump's assassin to Ukraine should be a concern for US intelligence services

Moscow. September 16. INTERFAX - Russian presidential spokesman Dmitry Peskov, commenting on information about the links of the suspect in Sunday's assassination attempt on Donald Trump with Ukraine, reminded of the consequences of playing with fire.

During an interaction with reporters, Peskov was asked what the Kremlin thinks about shooter Ryan Wesley Routh's possible ties to Ukraine.

"Here it is not for us to think, but for the US special services. In any case, playing with fire has its consequences," the presidential spokesman replied.

"First of all, this should be a big concern and headache for the US special services," he added.

## RUSSIA-KREMLIN-KURSK/OBLAST-UKRAINE

**09/16/2024 12:31:55 PM MSK**

The Kremlin has called Kiev's invitation of UN and Red Cross representatives to AFU-occupied settlements in Kursk Region a provocation

Moscow. September 16. INTERFAX - The Kremlin has called provocative the statement of Ukrainian MFA head Andrei Sibiga, who said that Ukraine had invited representatives of the UN and the Red Cross to visit populated areas in Kursk Region, where the AFU is now located.

"We count on the fact that such provocative statements will not be perceived by the addressees. This is a pure kind of provocation. And, of course, we count on a sober assessment of such provocative statements," Russian presidential spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters on Monday.

## RUSSIA-WEST-UKRAINE-ARMS-PESKOV

**09/16/2024 12:39:54 PM MSK**

The Kremlin has not heard any official statements about Kiev's authorization to hit Russian Federation with Western weapons - Peskov

Moscow. September 16. INTERFAX - The Kremlin has not heard any official statements about Kiev's authorization to strike deep into Russian Federation with Western weapons, but recalled that the response to such actions is contained in a recent statement by Russian President Vladimir Putin.

"There is the factual side of the matter, there is the formalization of the factual side of the matter, we see such a fiddling of information, there are a lot of rumors around this, a lot of forecasts by various analysts, but we have not yet heard any official statements on this matter," Russian presidential spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters when asked whether the Kremlin was following discussions in the West on the matter and how it assessed the fact that the relevant permission has not yet been given to Ukraine.

He recalled that Russia has repeatedly said that American specialists and military personnel are already taking part in this conflict without the appropriate authorizations. "This is happening as it is. But as for the formalization of all this - on this matter there was an absolutely unambiguous statement of the President of the Russian Federation, where everything was very clearly said," Peskov noted.

**From:** AfghanSIVApplication  
**Sent:** Wed, 2 Aug 2023 12:34:59 +0000  
**To:** [REDACTED] (b)(6)  
**Subject:** [REDACTED] (b)(3); (b)(6)

(b)(3); (b)(6)

DOS – National Visa Center | 32 Rochester Ave | Portsmouth, NH 03801-2909

AfghanSIVApplication@state.gov

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----- Original Message -----

**From:** [REDACTED] (b)(6); (b)(7)(C);

**Received:** Tue Jul 25 2023 16:11:36 GMT-0400 (Eastern Daylight Time)

**To:** AfghanSIVApplication COM BOX <canvcafghansivapplication@state.gov>;  
CANVCAfghanSIVApplication <canvcafghansivapplication@state.gov>;

**Subject:** Fwd: [REDACTED] (b)(3)

(b)(3); (b)(6)

**From:** AfghanSIVApplication  
**Sent:** Tue, 25 Jul 2023 16:43:10 +0000  
**To:** (b)(3); (b)(6)  
**Subject:** (b)(3); (b)(6)  
**Attachments:** Applicant Guidelines for the Chief of Mission (COM) Approval.pdf

(b)(3); (b)(6)



AfghanSIVApplication@state.gov

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----- Original Message -----

**From:** CANVCAfghanSIVApplication <CANVCAfghanSIVApplication@state.gov>;

**Received:** Tue Jul 25 2023 12:13:01 GMT-0400 (Eastern Daylight Time)

**To:** [REDACTED] (b)(6)

**Subject:** [REDACTED] (b)(3); (b)(6)

To Whom it Concerns:

(b)(3); (b)(6)

DOS – National Visa Center | 32 Rochester Ave | Portsmouth, NH 03801-2909

AfghanSIVApplication@state.gov

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----- Original Message -----

**From:** [REDACTED] (b)(6)

**Received:** Fri Jul 21 2023 05:38:39 GMT-0400 (Eastern Daylight Time)

**To:** AfghanSIVApplication COM BOX <canvcafgghansivapplication@state.gov>;  
CANVCAfghanSIVApplication <canvcafgghansivapplication@state.gov>;

**Subject:** null

(b)(3); (b)(6)

## HOW TO APPLY FOR CHIEF OF MISSION APPROVAL AND PETITION FOR SPECIAL IMMIGRANT STATUS

### Special Immigrant Visa Program for Afghan Nationals

#### GENERAL GUIDELINES

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To apply for Chief of Mission (COM) approval for the Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) program, you must have access to email, the ability to scan and save all the required documents from the list as PDF files and be able to submit these documents via email. You must also file the Form DS-157 which will be processed as your petition for special immigrant status.

After you have gathered all the required documents listed below, attach them to an email and send it to [AfghanSIVApplication@state.gov](mailto:AfghanSIVApplication@state.gov). The email must contain the principal applicant's name as it is written in the passport or tazkera, plus the applicant's date of birth using the following format: DAY-MONTH-YEAR.

We will send all communication and instructions related to this application to you via email. We recommend that you use the same email address to correspond with us throughout the process and that you keep a copy of any documents you send us.

#### REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

---

Applicants must submit the below five (5) items in their application package. *Please do not submit anything other than what is listed below unless we ask you to do so.* Specifically, do **not** submit photographs, certificates of appreciation, training certificates, resumes, or academic transcripts. These documents have no bearing on your COM approval application or petition and will not be considered.

Failure to submit all the required documentation exactly as requested below may significantly delay review of your application for COM approval. While this list specifies the documents required of all applicants, we may request additional information and documentation should questions arise during processing.

#### 1. Verification of Employment in Afghanistan

##### *A) If you were employed by or on behalf of the U.S. government:*

You must submit a letter from your employer's Human Resources (HR) department confirming that you were employed by, or on behalf of, the U.S. government in Afghanistan between October 7, 2001, and December 31, 2023, for at least one year.

The letter must contain all the information below:

- ☐ Your full name
- ☐ Your date of birth
- ☐ Information on the U.S. government contract or subcontract held by your employer, if applicable. This should include project name, contract number, the period of performance of the contract, and

the name of the prime contractor. If available, a copy of the contract between your employer and the U.S. government or a copy of the subcontract between your employer and the company that maintains a contract with the U.S. government should be provided.

- ☐ Your job title
- ☐ Your job location
- ☐ The date you started working for the employer (DD-MM-YYYY)
- ☐ The date you stopped working for the employer (DD-MM-YYYY)
- ☐ The reason for separation (if you are no longer employed)
- ☐ The name of the author completing the letter, his or her signature, and his or her contact information including corporate email (or alternate email if he no longer works with the organization) and current phone number.
- ☐ A thorough description of your work duties and the location where you performed those duties. If applicable, this should include an explanation of how your position required you to:
  - Serve as an interpreter or translator for personnel of the Department of State or the United States Agency for International Development in Afghanistan, particularly if it included duties that required traveling away from the embassy with such personnel;
  - Serve as an interpreter or translator for U.S. military personnel in Afghanistan, particularly if this work required traveling off-base.

Note: If the U.S. government directly employed you, you may submit a copy of your employment contract for consideration.

***B) If you were employed by the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), or a successor mission:***

You must submit a letter from your employer confirming that you were employed by ISAF, or a successor mission, between October 7, 2001 and December 31, 2023, for at least one year. If you were directly hired by ISAF, or a successor mission, this letter must be from ISAF Headquarters HR, or the successor mission HR, regardless of where you were stationed in Afghanistan. If you were hired by an ISAF member nation, or a successor mission member nation, this letter must come from the department or agency that hired you. **Note:** *Private contractors and subcontractors with ISAF or a successor mission or member nations other than the United States do NOT qualify.*

The letter must contain all the information below:

- ☐ Your full name
- ☐ Your date of birth
- ☐ An English language copy (or English translation) of the contract between you and your employer. If you were hired on a personal services agreement (PSA) or a personal services contract (PSC), you must submit an English language copy of the agreement or contract
- ☐ Your job title
- ☐ Your job location
- ☐ The date you started working for ISAF, or a successor mission (DD-MM-YYYY)
- ☐ The date you stopped working for ISAF, or a successor mission (DD-MM-YYYY)

- ☐ The reason for separation if you are no longer employed
- ☐ The name of the HR representative completing the HR letter, his or her signature, and his or her contact information including corporate email (or alternate email if no longer with the organization) and current phone number
- ☐ A description of your work duties. If applicable, this should include how your position required you to:
  - Serve as an interpreter or translator for U.S. military personnel while traveling off- base with U.S. military personnel stationed at ISAF or a successor mission, or
  - Perform activities for U.S. military personnel stationed at ISAF, or a successor mission

## 2. Letter of Recommendation

### *A) If you were employed by or on behalf of the U.S. government:*

You must submit a letter from a direct, senior supervisor who knew you personally. If your supervisor has left Afghanistan or is no longer employed by the employer, the author may also be the person currently occupying that position or a more senior person. In all cases, the author must be connected with the qualifying employment. The supervisory period should overlap with the period of employment noted in your employment letter. **The letter should be dated and signed by your supervisor.** It must contain all of the information below:

- ☐ Your full name
- ☐ Your date of birth
- ☐ Your badge number (if available)
- ☐ Your job title
- ☐ Your job location
- ☐ Confirmation that the recommender was/is your supervisor, or is a more senior person
- ☐ The date the author of the letter began supervising you (DD-MM-YYYY)
- ☐ The date the author of the letter stopped supervising you (DD-MM-YYYY)
- ☐ The supervisor's name, title, corporate or U.S. government/military email address and personal email address and current phone number
- ☐ Justification for recommending you for COM approval, i.e., that you provided faithful and valuable service to the U.S. government
- ☐ The supervisor's description of your work duties. This statement should be personalized to the specific duties you performed, including a description of where you performed those duties. If applicable, your supervisor should also address how your position required you to:
  - Serve as an interpreter or translator for personnel of the Department of State or the United States Agency for International Development in Afghanistan, particularly if those duties required traveling away from the embassy with such personnel;
  - Serve as an interpreter or translator for U.S. military personnel in Afghanistan, particularly if those duties required traveling off-base.

You should try to obtain the above recommendation from a U.S. citizen supervisor who knows you personally, but if that is not possible, you should try to provide a letter of recommendation signed by your non-U.S. citizen supervisor and co-signed by the U.S. citizen who is responsible for the contract. Any U.S. citizen who co-signs should indicate that, based on his or her relationship with your contract or sub-contract supervisor, he or she is confident that the information provided is correct. The recommendation must contain the work and personal email address and phone number of any cosigner so he or she may be contacted if additional information is needed.

***B) If you were employed by the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), or a successor mission:***

You must submit a letter from your immediate supervisor, the person currently occupying that position, or a more senior person. Preferably, the letter should come from a member of the U.S. military who personally supervised you. **The letter should be dated and signed.** It must contain all the information below:

- ☐ Your full name.
- ☐ Your date of birth.
- ☐ Your badge number (if available).
- ☐ Your job title.
- ☐ Your job location.
- ☐ The date the author of the letter began supervising you (DD-MM-YYYY).
- ☐ The date the author of the letter stopped supervising you (DD-MM-YYYY).
- ☐ The recommender's name, title, rank, U.S. government/military email address (if applicable), personal email address and phone number.
- ☐ Justification for recommending you for COM approval, i.e., that you provided faithful and valuable service to the U.S. government.
- ☐ The supervisor's description of your work duties, including, if applicable, how your position required you to:
  - Serve as an interpreter or translator for U.S. military personnel in Afghanistan while traveling off-base; or
  - Perform activities for U.S. military personnel stationed at ISAF, or a successor mission

**3. Updated Form DS-157, Petition for Special Immigrant Classification for Afghan SIV Applicants**

Beginning July 20, 2022, you must submit the Form DS-157 Petition for Special Immigrant Classification for Afghan SIV Applicants together with your COM approval application. The form is available online at <https://eforms.state.gov/Forms/ds157.pdf>. You must complete the entire form, leave no fields blank, and **sign the form**. It is important that you follow the instructions to the DS-157 at the end of the form. If you have previously submitted a signed DS-157 with your application, there is no need to submit a new one. See [travel.state.gov/afghan](https://travel.state.gov/afghan) for more information on the updated Form DS-157 petition.

#### 4. Evidence of Afghan Nationality

You must submit a scanned photocopy of your tazkera with an English translation. Alternatively, the biographic data page of your Afghan passport is acceptable evidence of Afghan nationality, or a photocopy of your National Identity Card front and back.

#### 5. Employee Badge(s)

If available, submit a scanned copy of any identification badges you have held during any periods of employment by or on behalf of the U.S. government, or by ISAF or a successor mission.

### NEXT STEPS AND QUESTIONS

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Once you have submitted your complete COM approval application packet via email to [AfghanSIVApplication@state.gov](mailto:AfghanSIVApplication@state.gov), please allow NVC to review your submission. We will let you know if anything is missing or incomplete.

If you have further questions about the Afghan SIV program, please first review the information online at <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/immigrate/special-immig-visa-afghans-employed-us-gov.html>. If you cannot find the answer to your question, please email [AfghanSIVApplication@state.gov](mailto:AfghanSIVApplication@state.gov).

### TIPS TO PREVENT DELAYS IN PROCESSING YOUR APPLICATION

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Ensure that the scanned copies of documents you provide are clear. Print your documents in black ink on white paper before scanning them. **Make certain all uploaded documents are in PDF format.**

Use the same spelling of your name on all documents and email correspondence. The spelling should match how your name is written in your passport or tazkera. You should list aliases after your correct name.

Letters of recommendation are very important in the SIV application process. Please ask your supervisor to be as detailed and complete as possible in describing your work and to write a letter that is specific to your accomplishments and responsibilities. Make certain that the supervisor(s) contact information is active and current. Make sure that letters of recommendation, letters from HR, and your DS-157 are signed





**From:** AfghanSIVApplication  
**Sent:** Mon, 22 Apr 2024 15:46:04 +0000  
**To:** NVCSIV  
**Subject:** (b)(3); (b)(6)

(b)(3); (b)(6)

DOS – National Visa Center | 32 Rochester Ave | Portsmouth, NH 03801-2909

AfghanSIVApplication@state.gov

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----- Original Message -----

**From:** NVCSIV@state.gov <nvcsiv@state.gov>;

**Received:** Fri Apr 19 2024 14:33:37 GMT-0400 (Eastern Daylight Time)

**To:** AfghanSIVApplication COM BOX <canvcafghansivapplication@state.gov>;

CANVCAfghanSIVApplication <canvcafghansivapplication@state.gov>;

**Subject:** (b)(3); (b)(6)

(b)(3); (b)(6)

(b)(3) Please help me. I have worked as agent with one of American man by ...

(b)(3)

Regards,

(b)(6)

**Special Immigrant Visa Unit**

Department of State – National Visa Center

NVCSIV@state.gov

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----- Original Message -----

**From:** (b)(3); (b)(6)

**Received:** Fri Apr 19 2024 04:38:13 GMT-0400 (Eastern Daylight Time)


**To:** NVCSIV <nvcsiv@state.gov>; NVCSIV <nvcsiv@state.gov>;

**Subject:** (b)(3); (b)(6)

(b)(3); (b)(6)

(b)(3); (b)(6)

(b)(3); (b)(6)



**From:** AfghanSIVApplication  
**Sent:** Tue, 23 Apr 2024 17:33:28 +0000  
**To:** (b)(3); (b)(6)  
**Subject:**

(b)(3); (b)(6)

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----- Original Message -----

**From:** Email Container;

**Received:** Fri Apr 19 2024 14:33:37 GMT-0400 (Eastern Daylight Time)

**To:** AfghanSIVApplication COM BOX <canvcafgghansivapplication@state.gov>;  
CANVCAfghanSIVApplication <canvcafgghansivapplication@state.gov>;

(b)(3); (b)(6)

Regards,

(b)(6)

**Special Immigrant Visa Unit**

**Department of State – National Visa Center**

**NVCSIV@state.gov**

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----- Original Message -----

**From:** (b)(6)

**Received:** Fri Apr 19 2024 04:38:13 GMT-0400 (Eastern Daylight Time)

**To:** NVCSIV <nvcsiv@state.gov>; NVCSIV <nvcsiv@state.gov>;

**Subject: Re:** (b)(3); (b)(6)

(b)(3); (b)(6)

(b)(3); (b)(6)

**From:** AfghanSIVApplication  
**Sent:** Tue, 7 Nov 2023 15:15:30 +0000  
**To:**  
**Subject:**

(b)(3); (b)(6)

(b)(3); (b)(6)

DOS – National Visa Center | 32 Rochester Ave | Portsmouth, NH 03801-2909

[AfghanSIVApplication@state.gov](mailto:AfghanSIVApplication@state.gov)

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----- Original Message -----

**From:** [REDACTED] (b)(6)

**Received:** Sun Nov 05 2023 04:37:04 GMT-0500 (Eastern Standard Time)

**To:** AfghanSIVApplication COM BOX <canvcafhansivapplication@state.gov>;  
CANVCAfghanSIVApplication <canvcafhansivapplication@state.gov>;

**Subject:** [REDACTED] (b)(3); (b)(6)

(b)(3); (b)(6)



**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Mon, 16 Sep 2024 10:21:09 +0000  
**To:** (b)(6); (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)  
**Subject:** Nothing says...

...."groomed by the Feds" as a nut that is repeatedly "not jailed" for serious crimes and is an avid "Act Blue" donor. I wonder if Vegas has odds on him committing Arkancide in jail?

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/ryan-routh-trump-shooting-suspect-florida-assassination-attempt-b2613428.html>

(b)(6)  
Security Specialist  
Africa Branch  
Worldwide Protective Services  
(b)(6) Desk  
Mobile  
Teams

**From:** (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)  
**Sent:** Mon, 16 Sep 2024 23:56:20 +0000  
**To:** (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)  
**Subject:** (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) SBU Request for comment - 09/16/2024

(b)(6);  
(b)(7)(C)

(b)(5)

Happy to (b)(5)

Respectfully,

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

Public Affairs and Media Relations Specialist

Contractor, TTC

DSS Public Affairs (DSS/PA)

Teams: (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) | GFE: (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) | iPhone: (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

Facebook | Flickr | Instagram | Twitter | Website | YouTube



~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

**From:** DS Command Center (b)(7)(E)@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 16, 2024 7:40 PM  
**To:** (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)@state.gov>  
**Cc:** DS-Press <DS-Press@state.gov>; DS Command Center (b)(7)(E)@state.gov>;  
DSCC\_Management Team (b)(7)(E)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** (SBU) Request for comment - 09/16/2024



Public Affairs,

Please see below a "request for comment", about a story that an news outlet is looking to run.

Regards,

**Diplomatic Security Command Center**

Bureau of Diplomatic Security

U.S. Department of State

Open (b)(7)(E)

Secure (CMS) (b)(7)(E)

**~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~**

**From:** Vera Maria Bergengruen Sapelli <vera.bergengruen@wsj.com>

**Sent:** Monday, September 16, 2024 7:28 PM

**To:** DS Command Center (b)(7)(E)@state.gov>

**Subject:** Re: Request for comment

You don't often get email from [vera.bergengruen@wsj.com](mailto:vera.bergengruen@wsj.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

Sorry, I meant \*fraudulent claims to Afghan soldiers he was trying to recruit to fight in *Ukraine*.

On Mon, Sep 16, 2024 at 7:24 PM Vera Maria Bergengruen Sapelli

[<vera.bergengruen@wsj.com>](mailto:vera.bergengruen@wsj.com) wrote:

Hello,

I wanted to ask for comment for a story we are reporting that states that the Ukraine NGO Coordination Network (UNCN) flagged concerns to the DS Command Center about Ryan Routh, a volunteer in Ukraine, in June 2023. They worried that he might be committing immigration fraud or even human trafficking due to his fraudulent claims to Afghan soldiers he was trying to recruit to fight in Afghanistan.

Could you confirm that you received these concerns from the group?

Thank you,

Vera

**From:** DO NOT REPLY  
**Sent:** Tue, 7 Nov 2023 21:26:26 +0000 (GMT)  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov  
**Subject:** New case email notification. Case number 00318625

An email has been received for case 00318625: RE: Article request.

Please click the link below to review the new email and respond appropriately.

<https://ipstate.my.salesforce.com/02s3d000004U5DT>

NOTE: It is not recommended that you forward this email because its association with the original case may be lost.

---

From: (b)(6)@state.gov (b)(6)  
Sent: Tue Nov 07 21:26:19 GMT 2023  
To: libraryhelp@state.gov  
Subject: RE: Article request [ ref:!00D300mqyv.!5003d09oas8:ref ]

This is a tremendous help - thanks for turning this around so quickly!

(b)(6)  
Political-Military Unit Chief  
U.S. Embassy Kyiv, Department of State  
Mobile, Signal, WhatsApp: (b)(6)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

From: Bunche Library Help <libraryhelp@state.gov>  
Sent: Tuesday, November 7, 2023 10:55 PM  
To: (b)(6)@state.gov  
Cc: (b)(6)@state.gov  
Subject: RE: Article request [ ref:!00D300mqyv.!5003d09oas8:ref ]

(b)(6)

Thanks for contacting the Library.

Here is a link to the story in the database with NYT content that we discussed:

<https://www.proquest.com/newspapers/stolen-valor-u-s-volunteers-ukraine-who-lic-waste/docview/2790419042/sc-2?accountid=14741>. You can access it as long as you are on OpenNet or GO. But I'm also attaching a PDF of the story.

Unfortunately we don't have a way for you to access the NYT website directly. But here is a list of all the things that we do provide access to: <https://state.libguides.com/friendly.php?s=popularitles>

Let us know if you have any other questions.

(b)(6)  
Research Librarian  
Ralph J. Bunche Library

----- Original Message -----

From: [REDACTED] (b)(6)@state.gov]

Sent: 11/7/2023 3:45 PM

To: libraryhelp@state.gov

Cc: [REDACTED] (b)(6)@state.gov

Subject: RE: Article request

Hi - The article linked below concerns efforts by western "volunteers" to fight in Ukraine, or help move equipment and supplies to Ukraine, or in one case transport foreign fighters to Ukraine. I'm particularly interested in the references to "Ryan Routh" and "International Volunteer Corps." [REDACTED] (b)(5)

[REDACTED] (b)(5)

Thanks,

[REDACTED] (b)(6)

Political-Military Unit Chief

U.S. Embassy Kyiv, Department of State

Mobile, Signal, WhatsApp: [REDACTED] (b)(6)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

From: [REDACTED] (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, November 7, 2023 10:39 PM

To: Library Help <LibraryHelp@state.gov>

Subject: Article request

Dear Bunche Library: could you please send a copy of this article to me?

<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/03/25/world/europe/volunteers-us-ukraine-lies.html>

[REDACTED] (b)(5) If there's a quick way to pull these articles, or a way I can do this myself without bothering you, please let me know.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED] (b)(6)

Political-Military Unit Chief

U.S. Embassy Kyiv, Department of State

Mobile, Signal, WhatsApp: [REDACTED] (b)(6)

[Image removed by sender.]

ref:!00D300mqyv.!5003d09oas8:ref

**From:** (b)(3); (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Thu, 16 Nov 2023 13:49:17 +0330  
**To:** AfghanSIVApplication@state.gov  
**Subject:** (b)(3); (b)(6)

(b)(3); (b)(6)

(b)(3); (b)(6)



Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(3); (b)(6)





Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(3); (b)(6)



Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(3); (b)(6)



Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(3); (b)(6)



Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(3); (b)(6)





Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(3)

**Instructions for each numbered question (continued):**

- 22 Check the appropriate box to note whether you or your deceased spouse or parent, if applying as a surviving spouse or child, have ever applied for Chief of Mission approval prior to completing this form. If so, enter the case number(s) associated with those previous application(s). If you or your deceased spouse or parent never applied before, write 'N/A.'
- 23 You may use this section to provide additional information if the space provided in the form is not enough. Indicate the question number you are answering in the box next to "Item Number".
- 24 Sign your name (by hand or typed) and date the form in the signature box.

**Processing Information**

There is no filing fee for this form.

You **must** file this form together with the documents required when applying for Chief of Mission Approval. Email all necessary documentation to:

[AfghanSIVApplication@state.gov](mailto:AfghanSIVApplication@state.gov).

**Initial Processing.** We must receive a complete and signed DS-157 petition and all documents required for Chief of Mission Approval, including all supporting documentation, as identified at <https://travel.state.gov/afghan>, before we can assess your eligibility for Chief of Mission approval and adjudicate your special immigrant petition. Failure to file all required documents may delay processing.

**Decision.** The decision on Form DS-157 involves a determination of whether you have established eligibility for classification as a special immigrant under INA section 203(b)(4), as provided for under section 602(b)(1)(A) of the AAPA. Approval of this petition means the U.S. government has determined: (1) you are a citizen or national of Afghanistan; (2) you were employed by or on behalf of the U.S. Government or the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), or its successor, in Afghanistan after October 7, 2001, for a period of not less than one year; and (3) you provided faithful and valuable service to the U.S. Government or ISAF, or its successor. The decision on Form DS-157 for surviving spouses and children of deceased principal applicants involves a determination that the principal applicant meets the above requirements and that you have a qualifying relationship as a spouse or as an unmarried child under age 21. Decisions will be made by authorized officials of the U.S. Department of State. You will be notified of the decision in writing.

**You do not need to file this form if:**

**You have not yet received a decision on your COM application and you previously filed a signed Form DS-157, Supplemental SIV Chief of Mission Application or Supplemental NIV Application, prior to July 20, 2022.** Your previously filed Form DS-157 will be deemed a PETITION FOR SPECIAL IMMIGRANT CLASSIFICATION FOR AFGHAN SIV APPLICANTS. If such individuals apply for a Special Immigrant Visa outside of the United States or apply to adjust status in the United States on the basis of Special immigrant status, they will be deemed to have provided the information on that form in support of a petition for classification as a special immigrant under the Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2009, Section 602(b) of Pub. L. 111-8, and Section 203(b)(4) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(b)(4)) and to have agreed that the information provided on that form may be shared with other U.S. government agencies authorized to use such information for purposes including enforcement of the laws of the United States. Individuals seeking to apply for a Special Immigrant Visa outside of the United States will need to email the National Visa Center at [NVCSIV@state.gov](mailto:NVCSIV@state.gov) with their location and information on any derivatives (immediate family members) included on the application.

**You have not yet received a decision on your COM application and you previously filed an unsigned DS-157 prior to July 20, 2022.** No Form DS-157 may be approved as a petition unless signed by the applicant. Applicants located outside the United States whose previously filed Form DS-157 is missing a signature but is otherwise approvable may be granted conditional approval. Upon receipt of conditional approval, individuals seeking to apply for a Special Immigrant Visa outside of the United States will need to email the National Visa Center at [NVCSIV@state.gov](mailto:NVCSIV@state.gov) with their location and information on any derivatives (immediate family members) included on the application. Applicants who receive conditional approval must electronically sign their Form DS-157 before a consular officer at the time of the visa interview for final approval.

**Note:** Applicants located in the United States whose previously filed Form DS-157 is missing a signature must file an I-360 petition with USCIS once granted COM approval to continue special immigrant processing.

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(3); (b)(6)



U.S. Department of State

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR PETITION FOR SPECIAL IMMIGRANT CLASSIFICATION  
FOR AFGHAN SIV APPLICANTS****You may file this petition if:**

1. You are a citizen or national of Afghanistan; and
2. You were employed by or on behalf of the U.S. government or the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), or its successor, in Afghanistan after October 7, 2001, for a period of not less than one year; or
3. You are the surviving spouse or surviving unmarried child under age 21 of someone who met the criteria in 1 and 2 above.

**General Instructions for Completing Form DS-157**

Please read and follow the below instructions carefully when completing Form DS-157.

This is a petition for classification as a special immigrant under section 203(b)(4) of the Immigration and Nationality Act ("INA") (8 U.S.C. 1153(b)(4)), as provided for under section 602(b)(1)(A) of the Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-8) ("AAPA"). This petition is required of all applicants for a special immigrant visa ("SIV") under the AAPA.

You must file this petition together with the documents required to apply for Chief of Mission Approval as listed here:

<https://travel.state.gov/afghan>.

If the form does not provide sufficient space for your response, use Item 23, Additional Information. **Do not leave any fields blank**. All questions must contain an appropriate response or the processing of your petition will be delayed. **You must sign your petition to receive a final adjudication.**

**Instructions for each numbered question:**

1. Enter your family name or surname as it appears in your passport or tazkera. Do not enter names that appear after d/o or s/o. If you have only one name, enter that name.
2. Enter your first name as it appears in your tazkera or passport (if any). If there is only one name, enter "FNU" (First Name Unknown) and use the single name as a last name.
3. Write your full name in Dari exactly as it appears in your tazkera or passport.
4. Check yes if you are the surviving spouse or child of a deceased principal applicant.  
\*4a-e. Enter the deceased's full name, name in native alphabet, date of birth, place of birth and tazkera.
5. Enter your clan or tribal name. If you do not have a clan or tribal name, write "None."
6. Enter any names/aliases you have used.
7. Enter your date of birth as it appears in your tazkera or passport.
8. Enter your place of birth as it appears in your tazkera or passport.
9. Enter your passport number (if any).
10. Enter all tazkera numbers you have ever used. If applicable, also enter your National Identity Card number.
11. Check the appropriate box.
12. Enter your email address and phone number.
13. Enter your current address where you are physically located.
14. Enter your father's full name as it appears in his most recent tazkera or passport.
15. Enter your mother's full name as it appears in her most recent tazkera or passport.
16. Enter the full name (as it appears on their tazkera), date of birth, place of birth, and date of marriage for your current spouse, if any. If you are unmarried enter "N/A".
17. List the full names and dates of birth of all your children under age 21 as it appears in the child's official documentation (i.e., a tazkera or birth certificate). **Only unmarried children under 21 years of age may qualify for an SIV (8 U.S.C. §1101 and Public Law 111-8 §602(b)(2)(B)).**
18. List all the countries you have visited during the past 10 years and the year of the visit (for example, China 2004, Italy 2007). If you have never traveled outside of Afghanistan, write "None."
19. List all the countries which have issued you a passport, including your current one (even if expired). If you have never been issued a passport and do not hold a current passport, write "None."
20. Check the appropriate box to note whether you have ever lost a passport or had one stolen.
21. List the requested information for the last five employers, including the current employer. If you had only one employer or no employer before the current job, you should explain that in the box. List previous employers regardless of whether they have a connection to the United States. Please explain the job and if self-employed. Please state specifically the employer's name, the job location, job title, supervisor name, supervisor email address, dates of employment, and the reason for separation. If you do not have previous supervisor's email address, enter "N/A." If you are the surviving spouse or child of a deceased principal applicant, the requested information refers to the deceased principal applicant's employment history.

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(3); (b)(6)

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including time required for searching existing data sources, gathering the necessary data, providing the information required, and reviewing the final collection. You do not have to provide the information unless this collection displays a currently valid OMB number. Send comments on the accuracy of this estimate of the burden and recommendations for reducing it to: U.S. Department of State, A/GIS/DIR, Washington, DC 20520.

DS-157  
05-2022

Page 2 of 2



**You are outside the United States and already granted COM approval and have not yet filed a Form I-360 petition with USCIS.** Any Afghan SIV applicant outside the United States who filed a signed Form DS-157 and has received COM approval but has not yet filed a Form I-360 petition with USCIS and who wishes to apply for an SIV must email NVCSIV@state.gov to receive instructions on how to proceed with their SIV application. Such applicants will be deemed to have provided the information on form DS-157 in support of a petition for classification as a special immigrant under section 203(b)(4) of the Immigration and Nationality Act pursuant to the Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2009, Section 602(b) of Pub. L. 111-8. If the applicant's DS-157 was unsigned, approval of the petition will be conditional. The approval will be finalized when the applicant electronically signs their DS-157 petition before a consular officer at the visa interview. Applicants will need to email the National Visa Center at NVCSIV@state.gov with their location and information on any derivatives (immediate family members) included on the application.

**You are in the United States and have been granted COM approval.** Applicants currently in the United States who have already received COM approval should file an I-360 petition with USCIS to request classification as a special immigrant. Following approval of any Form I-360 petition you will need to file a Form I-485 application with USCIS to become a lawful permanent resident.

**You did not file a DS-157 and have been granted COM approval.** Applicants inside or outside the United States who did not file a DS-157 and were granted COM approval must file an I-360 petition with USCIS. Applicants who have already filed the I-360 petition with USCIS must await a decision by USCIS to continue special immigrant processing. After USCIS approves your petition they will transfer your case to the Department of State's National Visa Center (NVC) for pre-processing. The first step in this processing is the creation of your case in our system. Once this is complete, we will send you a Welcome Letter by e-mail.



Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(3); (b)(6)

**From:** [REDACTED] (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Kyiv)  
**Sent:** Thu, 30 Mar 2023 04:01:06 +0000  
**To:** Kyiv MSGs; Kyiv LGF All; Kyiv RSO Agents; Kyiv RSO FSNI Kyiv; Kyiv RSO CPD  
**Subject:** LGF Daily Report 03/29-30/2023  
**Attachments:** LGF Daily Report 03.29-30.2023.docx

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~



US Embassy Kyiv, Ukraine  
Regional Security Office  
Local Guard Force

## LGF Daily Report

29 March 2023, 0800 – 30 March 2023, 0800

### STAFFING

#### Supervision

Position	Name	Comments
Day Shift Supervisor	(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)	
Night Shift Supervisor		

#### Facility Deployments

(b)(7)(E)
-----------

#### Mobile Patrol Deployments



(b)(7)(E)
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#### LGF Scheduled, But Called in Sick

Guard Name	Shift (Day or Night)	Was Supervisor Notified?	Comments
(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)	Day	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Substitution – (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)
	Night	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Substitution – relief guard
		<input type="checkbox"/>	

## INCIDENTS

### *Incidents Occurring at USG Facilities, Residences, or Involving COM Personnel*

<b>Date:</b>	03/29/2023	<b>Time:</b>	14:50–16:15	<b>Location / Address:</b>	(b)(7)(E)	
<b>Reported by:</b>	(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)			Shift Supervisor		
<b>Type of Incident:</b>	Other (please specify)			A small, one-person demonstration		
<b>Who Was Informed:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shift Supervisor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LGF Commander	(b)(7)(E)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Duty RSO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Duty FSNI
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Guard	<input type="checkbox"/> Police	<input type="checkbox"/> Ambulance	<input type="checkbox"/> Health Unit	<input type="checkbox"/> Bodyguards	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Owner/Resident	<input type="checkbox"/> Facilities	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify):			
<b>Summary:</b>	A small, one-person demonstration took place at the Embassy. A man (Routh, Ryan Wesley, DOB – 02/18/1966, US citizen, passport # (b)(6)) with a banner arrived at the Embassy and stopped in the park opposite the Main CAC near the National guard booth.					
<b>Actions Taken:</b>	Post1, Duty RSO, LGF manager, SD team and Duty FSNI were informed on the matter. At 16:15, the subject left.					
						

## DEMONSTRATIONS

### *Demonstrations, protests, or large gatherings observed throughout the city.*

<b>Date:</b>		<b>Time:</b>		<b>Location / Address:</b>	
<b>Reported by:</b>				<b>Name:</b>	
<b>Group or Organization:</b>				<b>Number of Protestors:</b>	
<b>Describe Police Response:</b>					

Summary:	
Summary:	

### ACCESS CONTROL / BADGES ISSUES

List employees who arrived at the Embassy without their badge.

Time	Name	Section	Reason (Forgot, lost, stolen, etc.)

All were instructed to report to Post 1 for assistance with a Visitor Badge and/or replacement.

### REFUSE TO SWIPE BADGE'S EXIT READER

List employees who arrived at the Embassy without their badge.

Time	Name	Section	Place/guard who informed

### EQUIPMENT ISSUES

Problems with equipment, cameras, security lighting, gates, etc.

Priority:						Time:					
Reported by:											
Specify Equipment:											
Location:											
Who Was Informed:	<input type="checkbox"/> Shift Supervisor	<input type="checkbox"/> LGF Commander	<input type="checkbox"/> Post 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Duty RSO	<input type="checkbox"/> FAC						
Description:											
Actions Taken (e.g. was work order submitted?)											

**GUARD ROLL CALL**

*Topics for discussion at the morning and evening shift muster*

A large empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for handwritten notes or discussion topics. It occupies the upper half of the page below the title.

(b)(7)(E)

**From:** (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)  
**Sent:** Wed, 14 Jun 2023 05:31:11 +0000  
**To:** (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)  
**Cc:** (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Taipei LGF Shift Supervisor; Taipei LGF Senior Guard  
**Subject:** Incident Report: Unscheduled visitor  
**Attachments:** unscheduled 06142023 1.jpg, unscheduled 06142023.jpg, unscheduled 06142023 2.jpg

**Nature of incident:** Unscheduled visitor (First time)  
**Date:** 06/14/2023  
**Time:** 11:48-13:00  
**Location:** MCAC  
**Persons Involved:** Ryan Wesley Routh (American Citizen)  
**Witnesses:** Senior Guard (b)(6); (b)(7)(C), Guard (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)  
**Shift Supervisors:** (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)  
**Persons informed:** ARSO, ARSO-I, (b)(7)(E) GH

**Report:**

On the indicated date and time, (b)(7)(E) Senior Guard (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) reported to me that a male American Citizen came for providing some intelligent information.

At 11:50, I came to the scene to collect his PII as attached.

At 11:53, I tried to contact ARSO but failed, then I called (b)(7)(E) if they can contact ARSO. (b)(7)(E) focused the subject on the camera.

At 12:07, ARSO-I (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) came down to interview the subject after informing by (b)(7)(E)

At 12:23, ARSO-I (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) have those papers provided by the subject back inside the office, the subject waited outside (b)(7)(E)

At 13:00, ARSO (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and ARSO-I (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) came out to the scene and have the subject to leave. The subject left directedly toward MRT station without any issue.

Per ARSO, (b)(7)(E)

Please see attached(PII) and photo as below,



Thanks,

(b)(6);  
(b)(7)(C)



*We the People*  
*Of the United States,*  
*in Order to form a more perfect Union,*  
*establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility,*  
*provide for the common defence,*  
*promote the general Welfare, and secure*  
*the blessings of Liberty to ourselves and*  
*our Posterity, do hereby establish this*  
*Constitution for the United States of America.*

(b)(6)

**PASSPORT**  
**PASSEPORT**  
**PASAPORTE**

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

Type / Type / Tipo: **P** Code / Code / Código: **USA** Passport No. / No. du Passeport / No. de Pasaporte: (b)(6)

Surname / Nom / Apellidos: **ROUTH**  
Given Names / Prénoms / Nombres: **RYAN WESLEY**  
Nationality / Nationalité / Nacionalidad: **UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**  
Date of birth / Date de naissance / Fecha de nacimiento: (b)(6)

Sex / Sexe / Sexo: **M**  
Authority / Autorité / Autoridad: **United States**  
**Department of State**

**USA**

**13 Jan 2021**  
Date of expiration / Date d'expiration / Fecha de caducidad  
**12 Jan 2031**  
Endorsements / Mentions Spéciales / Anotaciones  
**SEE PAGE 27**

(b)(6)



**International Volunteer Center**  
*Coordinating International Volunteers  
for Humanitarian Crises*

**Director - Ryan Routh**

(b)(6)

Signal, WhatsApp, Telegram, SMS and Viber

Email- [aid.in.ukraine@gmail.com](mailto:aid.in.ukraine@gmail.com)

[Killed-in-ukraine.com](http://Killed-in-ukraine.com)

(b)(6)



# We the People

## Of the United States.

*in Order to form a more perfect Union,  
establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquillity,  
provide for the common defence,  
promote the general Welfare, and secure  
the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and  
our Posterity, do hereby establish this  
Constitution for the United States of America.*



PASSPORT  
PASSEPORT  
PASAPORTE



### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Type / Type / Tipo Code / Code / Código Passport No. / No. du Passport / No. de Pasaporte

P USA

Surname / Nom / Apellidos

**ROUTH**

Given Names / Prénoms / Nombres

**RYAN WESLEY**

Nationality / Nationalité / Nacionalidad

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

Signature / Date de naissance / Fecha de nacimiento

(b)(6)

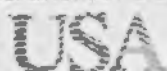
Sex / Sexe / Sexo

**M**

Authority / Autorité / Autoridad

**United States**

**Department of State**



**13 Jan 2021**

Date of expiration / Date d'expiration / Fecha de caducidad

**12 Jan 2031**

Endorsements / Mentions Spéciales / Anotaciones

**SEE PAGE 27**

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)



**International Volunteer Center**  
*Coordinating International Volunteers  
for Humanitarian Crises*

**Director - Ryan Routh**

+

(b)(6)

Signal, WhatsApp, Telegram, SMS and Viber

Email- [aid.in.ukraine@gmail.com](mailto:aid.in.ukraine@gmail.com)

[Killed-in-ukraine.com](http://Killed-in-ukraine.com)

(b)(6)



**From:** Ryan Routh  
**Sent:** Fri, 16 Jun 2023 02:52:44 -1000  
**To:** Taipeiacs@state.gov; english@president.gov.tw  
**Subject:** Had a meeting there at AIT outside with 2 very nice men  
**Attachments:** Letter to President of Taiwan.docx, Letter to Taiwan president.docx, Budanov note about pictures in English.docx, budanov main letter in English.docx, Congressperson Note- bullet points.docx, Trifecta of Solutions- Afghans to Ukraine.docx, Letter to the president of tawain- long in Chinese (1).docx, Rezenow cover letter.docx, US embassy lasts letter to Ambassador Brink.docx, US Embassy - Ukraine, Taiwan, and Haiti.docx

Dear AIT,

I have traveled to Taiwan with the sole purpose of offering thousands of Afghan soldiers to Taiwan.

Bridget Brink and Garrik Harmon at the US embassy in Ukraine were very enthusiastic about the project for Ukraine and they have brought the Pentagon and the EU onboard to bring some of the Afghan soldiers to Ukraine, but there is plenty for everyone. Since they and the Pentagon have agreed to offer financial support to bring Afghans to Ukraine perhaps the Pentagon would also be willing to pay for Afghans and supply gear also so they can defend Taiwan. They are having a meeting this week at the US embassy to finalize the details of the arrangement with Ukraine and Reznikov and Budanov. Perhaps with one call to the US embassy in Ukraine you can land major support for Taiwan. Perhaps you can join in the meeting and see what options filter out of the conversation and agreements.

To me it is an ideal situation to not cause any international conflict. These are stateless refugees that simply need a home, so China cannot really get mad at Afghanistan or the Taliban or any country. We can supply thousands of soldiers that are just as good as US soldiers but have no backlash as Americans; they are ambiguous and benign soldiers; and mere refugees.

Currently Taiwan law does not allow for the hiring of foreign soldiers and we must quickly get Taiwan to change that law as it prohibits bringing in soldiers from around the world.

As you may be aware Ukraine has not supported or fostered the International Legion and they have not been appreciative and respectful to the foreign soldiers so most all of them have gone home. The thousands of soldiers and civilians that are willing to support freedom, humanity and democracy would love to stand with Taiwan if given the invitation. Again these would be benign civilians merely arriving to provide support and to stand with Taiwan and certainly not an act of provocation. We should have hundreds of civilian soldiers from every country standing guard at the coastline to raise the cost of this war for China. We must have lives on the line from every country to show China that the world stands with Taiwan and will defend it. We should not sit silent and allow only Taiwanese men, women and children be the target for China. We must make this a global civilian conflict just like Ukraine. We cannot ignore the valuable lessons of Ukraine and we must copy the wonderful programs that worked and make them better.

If the AIT office does not have the power to bring the Afghan soldiers in for Taiwan, perhaps you can get the Pentagon to step in and deliver them just as they are doing for Ukraine and you can still be the hero.

Regardless of the number of soldiers Taiwan currently has these Afghans are extremely economical and worth every dollar we will spend to have them defend Taiwan. This is a valuable asset that we spend 2.5 trillion dollars making and we should put that asset to good use.



I have delivered a package to the Taiwan MOD of 500 pages and mailed a package to the Presidents office of 300 pages or more as well as delivered letters to the Presidents office on two separate days.

We can certainly deliver a small test group of soldiers with passports of 50 or 100 and Taiwan can access how they like the Afghans and bring in more after that.

January 13th is quickly approaching and I hope that we can expedite this process as quickly as possible so that these men can be useful before it is to late.

I hope this email gets to the proper people that can act on this valuable opportunity.

I look forward to working with you.

Ryan Routh

--

Ryan Routh

International Volunteer Center

(b)(6) MSM, Signal, WhatsApp, Telegram, Viber

[FightforUkraine.com.ua](https://fightforukraine.com.ua) [Killed-in-Ukraine.com](https://killed-in-ukraine.com)

Coalition forces spend 3 trillion dollars and 15 years training 300,000 soldiers that we must use to defeat Russia.



June 7, 2023

Ministry of National Defense

409 Bei'an Rd.

Zhongzheng District, Taipei City, Taiwan 104237

Dear Minister of National Defense and Staff,

The world should celebrate and cherish its female leaders, as the males are always the ones unhappy with life and bent on war and conquest. The problem you and I face is that China views a female president as a weakness and must seize Taiwan before a male president is installed with a natural lust for conflict and war and will spend every bit of funds and manpower to defend the homeland. We cannot allow Taiwan to fall on your watch. While you have done an excellent job, we must do everything in our power up to the last minute to prepare for this war, we cannot rest with the assumption that we have done everything that we can. And we already know that the USA will not defend Taiwan; this has been proven, so we must continue to build up our defenses to ensure that we do all we can.

**Afghan Soldiers**-As you are aware the world and coalition forces spent 2.5 trillion dollars and 20 years training 300,000 Afghan soldiers and now those soldiers are stateless and unemployed. These are NATO trained soldiers that have combat experience and know how to fight and are not afraid of the horrors of war and will not back down. These are the hardened soldiers that we need on the front line against the Chinese. Ukraine has also taught us that determined warriors defending a country will fight harder than those that are following orders. We should take advantage of these experienced soldiers that have dealt with death on a daily basis and will not pause in the face of war. These soldiers are not only the toughest soldiers but also the most economical as when with coalition forces NCO earned \$230, LT \$250, CP 300, MJ 350 and LTC 450 in US dollars. The current pay for all soldiers in Ukraine on the front line is \$3000 US dollars per month. So, these soldiers will be happy with 10% of the global norm.

**Human Slaughter and Refugee Crisis-**Furthermore, this is a refugee crisis, if hiring these soldiers to defend your country is not worthy enough, consider that you are helping these men and families and kids that have no hope, future or purpose in life. Since the fall of Afghanistan all of the coalition forces partners have been in hiding and moving from house to house to hide from the Taliban or are in camps in Iran. The unlucky ones end up with their heads cut off or shot or tortured and then killed. I arrive in Taiwan next week and I will deliver pictures of the atrocities (seems I left them in Moldova). But this project is two-fold as you will be giving life to those that are starving as well as providing jobs to help defend your country from dictators. It is beneficial for everyone. The soldiers can send the money back to their families and when your term is over the new president can send these soldiers back to Iran or keep them; but you will have defended your homeland.

**Raise Cost for China/Reduce for Taiwan-**If you are willing to make this a true refugee process and bring the Afghan families these soldiers will fight without pay for as long as you need and you will put more civilians in the path of Chinese destruction. These families have no real future in Iran or Pakistan and are desperate for any chance at a normal life so that their kids can go to school again and the parents can have a real career in a civilized community. Coalition forces have shown them how nice a normal life is where girls can go to school, and they can chase hopes and dreams and they want that again. You have the power to change so many lives and protect your country at the same time from human oppression. It is a pivotal moment in history to show world unity and slow the progression of aggression. Together we must show the world that we are united and will stand together.

**International Legion-**Speaking of the global military pay and the Legion in Ukraine, we have also learned from this experiment and its tremendous benefits. In addition to 50,000 or 100,000 Afghan soldiers we can raise the cost of the war for China by bringing in soldiers from every country around the world to make this a **global defense initiative**. While Ukrainian leadership is extremely proud and arrogant, they have successfully chased every foreign soldier away from Ukraine with incompetence, a lack of respect and no appreciation. We can harness this fallout and bring those soldiers to Taiwan that have gone home and create another global army prior to the invasion so that China must ponder how

many people from other countries it wishes to kill. We should give the entire world the opportunity to stand with Taiwan and show that we care. I can promote this project, as a US volunteer effort, so that it does not come from Taiwan, and I can assemble all of the old leadership from the Legion in Ukraine so that you have no blame or responsibility. As the conditions in Taiwan are better than Ukraine the recruiting will be far easier and jobs in noncombat post only pay 1200 US dollars per month so the pay can be far less, since they are not in active battle. Would it not be heartwarming to see volunteer soldiers from around the globe pouring into Taiwan to defend freedom and democracy. This is the bold visible public statement that we must make now before China invades. Time is slipping away quickly, and we cannot wait. We must have these soldiers on the ground quickly before the Chinese paratroopers start flooding the skies. We cannot let this war last one day. We must ensure that it drags on for several weeks so that the global leaders can decide how to respond.

**Ukraine International Legion-** We can solve the one problem with the International legion in Ukraine by simply installing NATO trained leaders. A major problem occurs when we have normal army leaders with average training in leadership positions of power with NATO trained soldiers with more knowledge and experience. We can attract thousands of soldiers that he fled Ukraine with the simple fact that we have NATO trained officers that so not hoard the supplies and treat the soldiers badly. We can improve upon this experiment and make it work in excellent fashion for Taiwan. I have worked with hundreds of foreign soldiers from around the world that sold everything they owned to go to Ukraine and fight and most ended up disappointed or dead due to incompetent leadership. But it is amazing the worldwide dedication to freedom and human rights. We should harness this motivation and not allow Taiwan to be taken in one day without screaming for global support and inviting everyone on the planet to come and stand with Taiwan.

**Baltic States Human Chain-** I had communicated with several of the Taipei city and district offices about creating a festival to bring in thousands of international civilians to camp along the shoreline to represent every country in the world but was not given any location to use. I had offered to bring in global support with a visual element of a tent city much like many protest around the world and I have already gotten my US flags, Ukrainian flags and Belarus flags to

represent the civilians from those countries that support Taiwan so that we can put them on the roof of our tents on the shore to show China that we support you. We should have a music festival much like Woodstock to bring in civilians to Taiwan and raise awareness and support and encourage these civilians to stay as long as they wish. We should use the ingenuity and modern thinking of fresh new ideas that free enterprise if built upon to ensure its future. You and I must be the leaders of this modern age and use the advantages that capitalism and democracy offer that are opposite of communism that breeds no new ideas or innovation. We must use the very fabric that makes our community great to ensure its continued existence. We must make change everyday to influence everyone around us and build these partnerships and drive for the outcome that we desire. We cannot sit and hope that things work out to our benefit as they will not. We must be the ones that ensure that the outcome we desire happens. We must embrace the Baltic States model and scream for international support from around the world to come and stand with arms locked around the entire perimeter of Taiwan. We cannot sit silently and hope that this invasion goes away, as it will not. The quieter we are the more likely they are to seize the country. We must proudly shout with our global partners that we will not stand for aggression and killing and that humans should be left to live their lives as they chose. This is a pivotal moment in time, and you are the leader of the future. We must on a daily basis bring in as many supporters as we can with as much media as possible to ensure that we hold Taiwan until the end of your presidency. We have an obligation to hold the country together until the election.

I have spent the last year dedicated to supporting Ukraine and bringing in hundreds of soldiers to Ukraine to fight and ensure that Ukraine wins, and Russia loses, and we will make that happen. I have been to Washington DC to every single Congresspersons office and begged for support to get these Afghan soldiers to Ukraine to help win this war. One quickly learns that some people are motivated and dedicated to doing what is right and getting things done and others just have selfish interest. I hope that your office will be the ones that wish to make change and take bold steps to ensure a safe future for Taiwan. I am hoping that you do not ride out the last months of this presidency with complacency like the Chinese expect. I hope these words do not fall of deaf ears and many lives are lost and for the expansion of China to begin. We should be

furiously preparing for this invasion until the last day of office so that the country is prepared from then on. We must use this time as an open ticket to make bold changes that perhaps a new president will be hesitant to make. This is the prime opportunity to bring in many refugees as refugees and they do not even need to look like soldiers; but will slowly transform into soldiers. You have the opportunity to make big changes with the acknowledgement that you are leaving and if it upsets some people so be it. You are a leader and leaders must make bold choices and it is best when they are headed out; as it has no cost but long-term benefits that everyone will see. Please be the brave, bold, fearless leader that Taiwan needs right now. Biden can do nothing as China has nuclear weapons, so you must stand alone and I and the entire rest of the world will come and stand beside and you and die with you, but you must invite us. You must open your arms to the global community and ask for help and the world will come running. Billions of dollars were raised and thousands upon thousands of volunteers will rush to your aid. You must sound the alarm. You must ask the world to come and stand with you. If you do not want to do this. I will, I will gladly come and stand on your steps and scream for support. You can claim that you have no legal right to stop me, and you can deny all responsibility if you wish. That is a perfectly fine arrangement with me. I will gladly be the escape-goat toward unifying the world behind Taiwan. I am expendable and will take on whatever risk is needed to save your country. I arrive next week, but I will stay as long as it takes to save your country from China. It was very disappointing when a female leader allowed China to take over Hong Kong; it was tragic. It may have also happened with a male leader, but it sets an example that China will follow and act upon. We cannot allow this same pattern to happen in the coming months. We must all ensure that this model does not hold. It is our obligation to support this presidency with every ounce of our being until the last second of this term. We cannot fail under this watch.

I hope that these words find a person of action and motivation and not one of complacency and comfort with the defense as it is. China is not Russia and this invasion will be smart and swift and we cannot allow it to last only one day with many lives lost and done forever. We must plan for the worst and fill the entire country with soldiers ready at every moment. We must make it as hard as D-Day and make sure that we have a stronghold like Azovstol in Ukraine to hold off the

Chinese for a week at least so the world can decide what it wishes to do. We should flood Taiwan with troops and civilians to make sure that we can hold part of the island for a short period of time. We cannot be naïve and optimistic in thinking we can hold off such a mighty force. Even the US military would have a hard time defending such a small parcel of land. It will be Pearl Harbor times 100 and this will be the reality. We cannot surrender; I hope the plans are not to surrender. If this is the plan, please let me know and I will go home. I hope that everyone will follow the Ukrainian example and fight to the death. I will join in that model and be gladly buried on Taiwan soil.

Please, I will arrive in Taiwan before this package hits your desk; but I would greatly appreciate a short meeting with one of your staff or advisors to review all of these options and what steps you will allow me to take to help save Taiwan. I have sent several emails to your office as well as to the military office with no reply. I will be truly disappointed if the whole of Taiwan refuses support from a US citizen that has 100,000 soldiers to offer and well as the structure of the International Legion and the capacity to create a tent city of global supporters to encircle the island and protect it. I certainly hope that you do not think that by sitting very quietly that China will forget about you and perhaps forget that you exist. Being quiet and polite will not stop a war. Perhaps being quiet and polite is the Asian personality and I so appreciate that but at this moment it does not deter aggression and only invites it, and this is what China is hoping. Regardless if I am right or wrong or stupid, having an international music festival brings in tourism and money; I have cheap soldiers that need a home and you are already short on soldiers and hiring women to fight; so you need soldiers anyway. Invasion or no invasion all of these things are beneficial to Taiwan and the world. You get to be the hero of a shattered Afghanistan and be a wonderful host to those that are unfortunately displaced and living in a country that supports Russia. What a wonderful humanitarian story to have Taiwan open its arms to these refugees that are desperate and poor and want to feed their families. It is a brilliant opportunity to benefit them and benefit you. The US would certainly support your humanitarian efforts for these refugees and we can downplay the fact that they are trained soldiers. It is a win, win, win for everyone. There is no downside to any of this. An Iran Visa is 80 Euros or 100 US dollars and we can deduct return airplane fair from the soldiers monthly pay and ensure that they

have a path back to Tehran when your term is over or whenever you wish to return them. This is an opportunity to change so many lives and give children hope and a future. These kids lives have been ripped apart with many of them whose mothers have been slaughtered as the Taliban searches for the husband, so these kids are growing up without a mother and a father trying to find a way to feed them in a foreign country. No one can find a normal job as the Taliban has the biometric scanner that the US left that can identify anyone and they will be killed. Life in Iran at best yields a job that pays 3 to 4 dollars a day so they must live way below the poverty line as refugees. It is a bad situation in any country for these soldiers and families. Children cannot go to school in Iran or Pakistan as they cannot register, and girls cannot go to school in Afghanistan as well. Their normal life as been ruined with no solution in sight. We have an entire army at your disposal if we can simply partner you two together as people that are facing daunting challenges to work together as partners and create lasting bonds of friendship and parallel struggles that unite us. Over the last 9 months I have come to know these Afghans and they are like my best friends and brothers now and I would die for them as well. I so look forward to being on the battlefield with them and ensuring that they stay alive for their children. I so appreciate their motivation, hard work and determination against all odds; it is inspiring. I hope that at some point they can live with me in Hawaii and we can work together and be friends for life. I certainly hope that I can employ these men myself as they would do all of my work for me. Like any nationality we must sort through the good and bad, but I have found the best and they certainly shine everyday with brilliant ideas and extreme effort pushing life forward. They motivate me and give me hope. They are heroes.

I hope that you will give some serious thought and time to the offers that I have put before you and not put this straight in the trash. I would certainly at bare minimum enjoy a response as to the current plan and course of action. Ukraine does not have the wisdom yet nor the finances to bring these soldiers into Ukraine, and claim that they have enough soldiers to do the job; so these soldiers are left to you. Can you please change their lives and save your own. I hope that you will take a moment and send me an email of what next steps should be and what parts of this plan you are willing to discuss. I would so enjoy a

meeting so that we can discuss all of these options and for you to tell me what you wish to happen next.

As I compile the information for this package, it results in more thoughts that I must try to share. As I left most of the tragic photos in Moldova, I had the Afghans send me some more as the tragedies happen every day. One of my soldiers' nephews was killed as they were searching for him as he was a coalition soldier. The pointless murders happen daily in Afghanistan of babies and children and anyone that does not side or support the Taliban. It is a barbaric world where anyone can be killed at any moment. They speak of the Russians killing 7000 in one day and the Taliban marching hundreds off a pier with their hands and feet tied into the water. It is insane stories that are hard to imagine. The one group of pictures is of the Taliban cutting a man's head off---he is alive at the beginning of the video and decapitated at the end. There is another picture of a baby and mother that are decapitated in the kitchen floor and the **baby's head is sitting on the kitchen table**. It is a barbaric world that is beyond belief and these people must live with this daily murder or find the money for an Iran or Pakistan visa and travel to safety. Certainly, the world spent 2.5 trillion dollars to stabilize the area for 20 years but now we should at least help the poor people that stood for freedom and human rights and a basic civilized society. We can at least provide the men that are soldiers and the main target a way out and a means to support their families from another country. We cannot expect Iran that is under sanctions to support all the refugees and Pakistan has its own share of problems. **It would be the humanitarian thing to do;** to at least accept the men and are on the run and looking for a place to be useful again. We spent 15 years training these men and **we cannot let that valuable asset go to waste and sit idle when we need them desperately**. We cannot let that investment go to waste.

My entire life has now become an assessment of what each and every person on the planet puts into this world of ours. I have now come to judge every single stranger that I pass on the street and especially here in Kyiv and life goes on as normal as if no war exists. Buy a t-shirt that says Ukraine on it and you have done your part. Last night a fight broke out between 2 British men and 5 Ukrainians here in the square about the fact that the Ukrainian men should be on the front lines beside the British and is the case on every corner. Certainly the British and any foreign soldier that comes back to Kyiv or Lviv and rides the



subway with hoards of healthy men and women going about life without a care makes one think. I not only wrestle with those here but around the world that sit and home and do nothing. I have all my friends and family that can care less about any of this war or the future of Taiwan. In my interaction with all the soldiers from Taiwan that have come to Ukraine to fight they have the same attitude that Taiwan is fine and everything will be fine and think that they will win against the Chinese. They have in their minds that they have enough people and that they are ready and nothing more needs to be done. I have spoken with 5 or 6 and they all are brazenly confident and 1 was headed back to Ukraine as he thinks Taiwan is safe. I suggest that he stay in Taiwan and prepare. When I arrive in Taiwan will be best and the brightest people in Taiwan have the same thought process that we have done all that we can and are as prepared we can be. I am hoping that some of the brilliant leaders know that you can never be too prepared and that we must work tirelessly 24 hours a day seven days a week until this presidency has run its course. We cannot sit and hope that we have done enough. We must turn every stone and chase every option and every ounce of support that we can find to be ready for this conflict. I certainly hope that those that have risen to power in Taiwan are not like the vast majority around the world that are selfish and take out more than they put into our world. We should each ensure that we put in everything, that we must make sure that our children have a better life than ourselves and we do not allow laziness to let us make major mistakes. We should put forth as much effort as it takes to push history in the direction that it should go. We must chart that course and make this happen. We cannot fail at this critical moment. We must answer the call and not be afraid. We must be the loud voice that Taiwan desires and needs to hear at this difficult time. We cannot wait until the war is over. The time is now. I hope the calm relaxed Asian mindset does not prevent us from preparing for the war. We should be panicked and working quickly as possible to prepare.

I must say that I am somewhat baffled at training without bullets. I personally think that soldiers must learn with real bullets about real war. With a nation that is afraid to use real bullets in practice than how are they expected to kill Chinese soldiers when they are charging them. There must be some degree of brutality built into these soldiers so that they can face the danger and win. It seems all the more reason so bring in foreign soldiers from Afghanistan and

around the world that are hardened and proven to survive in the face of death. I know my weaknesses and I lean on others to make up for my faults that are many, and we should also hire out this job that may not be best suited for mild-mannered polite Asian personalities. It would be wise as so that if we do lose you have a wide range of people to blame. I am so lucky that I cannot blame only the Afghans for losing to the Taliban, but also the US, England, France, Canada, Belgium, Italy and many other countries were represented in Afghanistan so there are many to share the blame. You should do the same as well and bring in as many people from as many countries and give them leadership roles so that there will be an abundance of blame to go around. Some people just blame the Afghans for the loss as disloyal or bad soldiers but that is not a valid argument. In any civil war in any country where soldiers are fighting against their neighbors and friends the Battlezone gets convoluted and confusing; we have the advantage now that the enemy will be obvious and unrelated and foreign so it will be all out war.

We can bring in all levels of leadership and support to help with this war. I have US Army Captains that are ready to come and fight and lead for you and bring all of their soldiers. I can bring Canadians, Brazilian, Albanian, Czech, French, English, German, Spanish, Australian, Columbian, and basically every country on the planet to come and stand with you and they will pay for their own flights and come with their own gear. We can even bring Chechen and Georgian, Finish and Swedish; North Africa, Japan, South Korea, Zimbabwe, and everywhere once the ball is started rolling. Just say the word and the whole world open up and your shores will be flooded with happy soldiers. It is so simple and easy. How can we be happy with 30 US advisors; even if it is 3000, we should put no limit to the number of soldiers that we allow. If we cannot pay much, we can offer whatever we can and if we must simply have soldiers volunteer to stand guard; we will fill all the volunteer roles as well. I have so many people that want to fight for Ukraine; I have kids that are 13, 14, 15, 16 that want to fight for Ukraine, and they would come and defend Taiwan if we sound the alarm and do what needs to be done. Most countries look for ways to attract tourists. **We can attract thousands to come and stay as volunteers for months and spend lots of money** and balance the cost of the soldiers that we must pay. We can stimulate the

economy and introduce Taiwan to the world as we all stand arm and arm like the Baltic states did to stop the spread of communism.

I started a flag project in Kyiv with 20 small Ukrainian flags for the 20 people that I knew that had died and I didn't think that it would ever work and no one would add more flags but slowly a few were added and as time went by there were more and more and now a year later there are thousands of flags in the grass at Independence Square and it has grown and we can do the same thing in Taiwan. Once we get 20 or 30 people we will get more and more and fill the whole country with supporters from around the globe. You will be amazed at the outpouring of support and people that are concerned about the future of our world and the path it takes. We cannot let this grand opportunity slip away. You are on the forefront of the changing world and we must work together as mere civilians to make sure that innocent people do not get killed and land taken unjustly. This is not about democracy or communism; one group cannot simply come and steal another countries land as their own. Killing and taking land is basic terrorism and cannot be allowed in our modern society and the whole of the world understands this principle and will stand with Taiwan to ensure that it does not fall.

In addition to the small Ukraine flags for those that had died I also put up large flags for the countries that were supporting Ukraine. I had eventually put up fifty country flags with Taiwan of course for its several soldiers and the millions of dollars donated to the Hospitals here in Ukraine. I had one crazy Ukrainian lady that seemingly was Russian and loves China and hates Taiwan and ripped my Taiwan flag from the wall. My Taiwanese soldier friend Le Chine had another Taiwan flag and together he and I put the flag back up on the wall. Ms. Chung from CNA news did a story about the flags in Taiwan. Again the crazy lady stole the flag and Le was able to get his buddy Leo Cook that is here learning about war gave me another one to replace it. Just a week or two later the crazy lady and her henchmen cut down all the country flags and put up one large Ukrainian flag. She ran to the police when I asked her why she did not want international support. The reality is that none of Ukraine wants foreign soldiers or foreign volunteers; they all want to fight this war on their own. It is baffling that no army has come to fight with Ukraine, and they chase off the few that are willing to help. They

are chasing me out of the country as my 90 days are up and they will not allow me to stay longer to get these thousands of soldiers done in implemented. Insanity.

The CNA story is at: <http://www.cna.com.tw/news.aipl/202206070005.aspx>

We all failed with Hong Kong, and we should all be totally ashamed and we cannot let this happen again. I had emailed Ms. Carrie Lamb with Hong Kong and encouraged her to stand for human rights, but we all failed in that battle, and we cannot fail again. We should all be ashamed, and I am ashamed that I did not go and fight. We should all be embarrassed. We are just a few months away from the same disaster in Taiwan and we must work extremely quickly. Ukraine has been an unfortunate distraction, but we must shift our priorities quickly and gear up this project as fast as we can and make it happen. We cannot waste a second.

We have 250 to 300 Afghan soldiers that have passports and are ready to fly today and be deployed. Some of them can afford airplane tickets but some of them cannot. In an ideal scenario we can charter a plane or send a military plane to Islamabad Pakistan to pick up these soldiers and get them to Taiwan as quickly as possible. We have thousands upon thousands without passports that can board a plane in the matter of a few days and be in Taiwan and ready to fight. These men are all ready to do whatever is asked of them. They are extremely eager to do whatever is asked. We can dig our own trenches and do whatever is demanded to prepare for this war. They are fully aware of preparing battle stations and preparing for war. They will gladly take the first line and let your soldiers take the second and third lines. They will not waver, falter or retreat. I will be there with them and fight to the death. We have nowhere to retreat to; so we must win. Ukraine has land and neighbors to run to, so we must fight to the death in Taiwan, and we will. I have had many friends die here in Ukraine; sell everything that they own and come here and fight and die for freedom and humanity. It is truly sad the number of foreign soldiers that have died here in this stupid war and it will last for decades with thousand more to die; but we cannot let Taiwan be any easy target like Crimea. You should pattern yourself after Zelenskyy and wear battle gear everyday and rally your troops with inspirational messages everyday that you will win and that we must prepare every day and be ready to fight.

Russian Recruiting-Because Ukraine does not have the money nor the intelligence to hire these thousands of soldiers' time is slowly running out as the offers from Russia and the Wagner group are very inviting. Russia has set up nice offices in Iran and Pakistan as well as in the refugee camps and are pushing the Afghans hard to join Russia. They offer between \$2000 and \$7000 dollars for the soldiers depending on the job and their prior training. It is extremely good money for those that are making 3 to 4 dollars a day doing hard labor in Iran. You would be doing Ukraine tremendous favor by saving these soldiers from Iran and the Russian recruiters. Most of the Afghan soldiers must come up with medical excuses for the Iranian officials as to why they cannot go and fight for Russia. Seems part of the economical Visa for Iran and the allowance of them to enter the country is the thought that they can all go and fight for Russia. Trump and revised sanctions have made this war harder. Some of the soldiers have been forced to go and many airplane loads of Syrian soldiers have been flown to Russia to fight. As this region is in chaos, we should pull the best and the brightest from this mess and make them useful. These men are exactly like you and I, humble and honest and dedicated and with great moral character and worth. These are honorable men with good values and understand the value of freedom and basic human rights and wish for their kids to have a good life and a good education and be prosperous and successful. They are tired of the terrorism and barbaric life and just want to be on the side of good and stand up to evil and be on the winning side of humanity. We need to do the world a favor and save them from the harassment of the Russian recruiters and bring them to Taiwan to fight for the future of Humanity.

Asylum- As I have mentioned already, you can merely allow the families to come to Taiwan also and give them a modest patch of grass or apartment and they will fight for years for you without pay. The wives are willing to work to buy the food and they will simply be happy with a civilized life with no senseless murder in the street. They just want a new life within a place that stands for the right things in the world. They want to be a part of that community. These are all very smart, educated, hardworking people that will always pull their weight and put in more than they take out. These men and families will be valuable assets to any community for decades to come. We get to pick from the whole litter of soldiers the quality of character that we want. We have prepared CVs and

Applications and files for these men with US background checks and can continue to do so and can provide countless interviews by video to share who they are and ensure that they are working for you for the right reason. We internally have already daily eliminated all of those that do not stand for the values and future that we hold dear. So collectively we will find only the best people to join our fight and be a part of our communities. If all of this fails I will be finding a way to get these men to my town so that they can help me and contribute to my community.

My US partner in Washington with the CIA Kate, says that no one ever reads anything and even few ever act; and that is a sad perspective, but it is often true. This document may not be perfect for the fear that it likewise will not even get read. I apologize for any mistakes, but I do hope that it finds someone that will act and help me to ensure that Taiwan remains free and happy as it has been for decades. Please help me with a simple 5 minute meeting to see what parts of this proposal you will allow me to implement. We have a whole network of unlimited partner with far more ideas than I to help ensure that we win this war. I may not know all the work that you are doing and have done, but we can always do more. Please let us pursue every option and every idea and use every single resource that we have at our disposal. We should unleash the power of this vast civilian army to embrace Taiwan and let us wrap our arms around you and protect you. Let us be the human shield to protect each and every one of you. Let us partner a foreigner with every single Taiwanese person to ensure that they stay alive and well. The Afghans are extremely mad that their president ran away in the face of danger and their country collapsed and they will not let that happen again. The appreciate the example set by Zelenskyy and we must do the same in Taiwan and tie ourselves together and never back down or give in to anything. If we must go down with the ship and the country that is what the world demands. We are all here, from around the globe ready to stand with you and fight until the bitter end. We must shape the future of our world and put a stop to the actions that are unacceptable. We cannot sit quietly and allow this to happen. I will scream and thousands just like me from your shores to stop this catastrophe from happening. Now is the time. We must rally the troops and make a stand. Again you can place all blame on me and stand back and let it unfold. We can make this happen. We can save Taiwan, but we must act. Please help me with just the

permission to act. I just need a patch of shoreline and the freedom to work and be seen and heard and a little cooperation from the military. We can do this; we can stop this war or win this war. We can do this. Let us make it happen.

Thanks for your time,

Ryan Routh

International Volunteer Center

(b)(6) Signal, Whatsapp, Telegram, Viber, WeChat, SMS

[Aid.in.Ukraine@gmail.com](mailto:Aid.in.Ukraine@gmail.com) [fightforukraine.com.ua](http://fightforukraine.com.ua) [killed-in-ukraine.com](http://killed-in-ukraine.com)

Dear Mrs. President Tsai Ing-Wen,

As you know Coalition forces spent 2.5 trillion dollars and 20 years training 300,000 soldiers in Afghanistan and now, they are all stateless refugees desperate for purpose and hope again. You can give these soldiers meaning in life again and give them the means to feed their families which they desperately need. With the coalition forces these battlefield-tested NATO trained soldiers earned between \$200 and \$300 USD per month, so they are extremely economical. Ukraine claims that it has enough manpower and does not need these soldiers and has this war handled; but we cannot sit and let China take Taiwan in one day while we have this tremendous asset available. We can bring in 50,000 to 100,000 soldiers as a civilian refugee program and slowly turn them back into soldiers to defend Taiwan. Biden will not defend Taiwan and this invasion will happen in your term and we cannot allow Taiwan to fall. Your legacy should not be as the last free leader of Taiwan, but more of a Zelensky style brave leader defending their country. I can bring the entire International Legion that have all abandon Ukraine and bring you thousands of international volunteers to line the shores of Taiwan to defend Humanity and Freedom as it should be. We must immolate the Baltic states protest with thousands of civilians and soldiers around the coastline to save Taiwan. I am leaving Ukraine and coming to Taiwan, and I hope to make this project happen with your help. The implications and precedent set by the fall of Taiwan may lead to a chain of events that we all do not wish to see. Please help me help you. Ryan Routh



Dear Oleksiy Reznikov (and Major General Kyrylo Budanov), April 3, 2023

These pictures that follow show some of the atrocities that the Taliban is perpetrating on its population in Afghanistan. You will see that life is in some ways worse there than it is here. The Taliban murders anyone in the street that they even suspect was associated with the US and tortures those that they are not sure of. As you can see, they are killing and chopping off the heads of little babies and children that are obviously totally innocent. It is the most crude and barbaric acts that I have ever seen and certainly makes anyone with any civility and humanity to have the desire to help. This is the type inhumane abuse that the Afghan soldiers are fleeing in their country that creates a tremendous amount of motivation to stand up for basic human rights. Afghans have tasted the joy of normal civilized life for nearly 20 years and they understand its value and worth. That is why they know that Ukraine must hold on to its freedom at all cost and they are willing to put their lives on the line to guarantee that luxury for their neighbors. They understand the need for law and order and not chaos, and a system whereby families cannot be killed just because of their tribe, heritage or religion. They value the basic human right for each person to live as they chose without war, beatings, or slaughter. I can provide the actual videos of men getting killed and having their heads removed while they are still alive and that alone should give anyone enough justification to offer these soldiers a place a refuge even if they did not fight. Given the fact that they are running for their lives and willing to fight makes this situation all that much more valuable. You and I are given the opportunity to help save their lives while also giving them the chance to help change history and win a war. This is the most ideal scenario whereby everyone benefits, and everyone is truly grateful for the others help. What could be more perfect than two countries in strife and having them come together to help one another towards a common goal. Even if that Afghans were the worst soldiers on the planet you and I as mere human beings should offer them help and support even if we are struggling ourselves. We should be the better people and find it in our hearts to care for them and if they can return the favor then we all gain. We each have a prime opportunity now to make a tremendous impact on our world and set an example of teamwork and unity and partnerships to triumph over oppression and tyranny. We cannot let this wonderful opportunity slip through our fingers and the thousands of soldiers that are begging for your

help in exchange for a lifetime of support and dedication. This smallest act of kindness will pay tremendous dividends over and over for decades to come. We must start this positive chain of events to make the end of this war a reality. Please study these pictures and consider that we cannot be selfish at this moment; we cannot make a tragic error that cost thousands more Ukrainian lives when the safety and support net is right at our fingertips that we can afford. Ukrainians should not stand alone and carry all of the losses and pain. We must utilize any reinforcement that are offered to us and use them to our advantage. Please let us give some hope to the Afghan people and let them give us some hope as well. Russia has already sent thousands of Syrian soldiers to Russia and if offering very good pay to the Syrian Free Army and the Afghans and **we cannot let them end up on the wrong side fighting against us** because we did not let them come and fight for us. It would be a tragic mistake.

I had shared some of these photos with and delivered a short note to most every congressperson in the US but gained very little direct support for this project. We were able to yield background checks on every Afghan soldier and most acknowledge that this is the right thing to do but no collective powerful support was rendered. Hence, we must start this process on our own. We must show everyone the power of unity and teamwork and build support based on our actions and not talk and show them what we can do and that we deserve support and encouragement. Once we get this project working we hopefully can then get US support and help for saving the refugees that they abandoned and giving them refuge. **It will be a tremendous selling point for more aid and continued financial support.** Help us with the smallest opening and tiniest opportunity to show what can be done. We will send the most loyal and devoted soldiers that you have every seen. Just give us the opportunity. Thanks for your time and support.

We have provided a list of 5600 soldiers but we can supply at least 15,000 Afghans and 15,000 Syrian soldiers. (We lost 75 in the earthquake but a vast quantity are begging to fight)

Ryan Routh and the Afghan Army and the Free Syrian Army

[fightforUkraine.com.ua](http://fightforUkraine.com.ua)

[killed-in-ukraine.com](http://killed-in-ukraine.com)

Taiwan- This is a letter to head of Ukraine MOD, with valid arguments-

April 2, 2023

Dear Oleksiy Reznikov (and Major-General Kyrylo Budanov),

Although I have already been told that you are not interested in Afghan or Syrian soldiers, I feel that I should at least present the tremendous achievements that are available. These soldiers are in a very bad position and very desperate, so we can offer them almost anything and they will accept it. **If you want soldiers who are extremely dedicated and willing to die for Ukraine and get very little pay, these soldiers are what you need.** We can impose an extremely limited payment for death, as well as very little compensation for limb loss or injury. These soldiers can be much more economical than Ukrainians and fight much less than spoiled Westerners. We must not force Ukrainians to bear the vast majority of losses in this global war, we must share global responsibility among as many nationalities as possible, because this is a global war. Please at least think about the Afghan soldiers and let us know what problems you have with them, and we can find a way to deal with any problems you foresee as they deploy. This is a major possibility that we should at least consider.

I've only added a few files from thousands of soldiers with background checks from the U.S. so you can get an idea of who they are and that they are decent people and good soldiers. Again, we can develop contracts for these soldiers to meet any needs you wish and ensure that they are returned to Pakistan at the end of their service. This group of soldiers has passports and we can provide air transport from Pakistan to Poland or Moldova, if you can issue visas for these soldiers from Ukraine then hopefully we will be able with your help to obtain transit visas so that these men can travel in Ukraine. Perhaps with a small sample of 10 to 20 soldiers, we will be able to do a test and see how well they are doing and see if they meet your expectations. We are happy to send a large group, but offering any arrangement that can make you feel comfortable. These soldiers are extremely eager to make this project work and fight for Ukraine, so we are ready to accept almost any condition. If you would at least make an offer to consider these soldiers, it would be greatly appreciated. We are all extremely committed to winning this war and will do whatever is necessary. When it was suggested that each soldier should supply his own equipment; There

were no complaints, and one soldier replied, "If we have to fight naked, that's fine." These people are fully committed to winning this war and are not rich or spoiled like some Western soldiers who need all the fancy equipment. These men understand how to adapt, adapt, and do what we have to. This is a hard and dirty war, and we must use everyone, especially those who have already proven and proven themselves. We can deploy them in the most horrific war zones and see what character and material they are made of, and I will gladly go fight alongside them at every turn. Each of us will fight to the death to support human rights and everyone's right to freedom.

As you know, this war is not just about Ukraine, it's a global conflict and it should rightly be called World War III, and Ukraine should be extremely angry with the United States for not sticking to the agreement they made decades ago with the collapse of the Soviet Union, when they took down their missiles and nuclear weapons and promised to protect Ukraine. Because the United States has failed and again failed to help advance this project, you and I must stand tall, do the right thing, and move it forward. The United States has abandoned these Afghan and Syrian soldiers, and as brothers in arms in one fight, we must all come together and work together. All these soldiers feel the pain of Ukraine and so desperately want to help you. We cannot let this huge motivation go to waste. Because this is a global conflict, we have an obligation to allow everyone around the world to come and stand by Ukraine and fight. Last week I met and deployed several Japanese soldiers, and this week I picked up a Chinese soldier in Moldova, and I have people all over the world begging to fight and help Ukraine. I have children aged 14, 15 and 16 who call me and beg me to fight for Ukraine and men of all ages. We must support all the amazing soldiers who come to Ukraine to risk their lives for Ukraine. We must continue to help as many soldiers as possible and use the media at every opportunity to share how remarkable this story of global unity is. And we cannot allow Afghans and Syrians to stay out of the war because it sends a signal that we don't want them, don't love them and don't need their help. Ukraine delivered supplies to Syria this week, and we must allow them to help us too. We must cooperate with every country and use every soldier who is ready to fight. We should celebrate their courage and honor their willingness to sacrifice and try to encourage more and more global support. The seeds we are sowing today towards more economical soldiers who will fight

harder could lead to more and more soldiers over time and significantly change the course of the war. We cannot ignore volunteers begging for help. We cannot allow them to even think about fighting for Russia. We must give them the opportunity to fight on the good side of this war. If you don't want to do this project, just appoint someone to work with me and Volodymyr and Zulya with the Ukrainian Legion and we will take on this project so you don't have to worry about it and we will make you proud. We can manage this project from stem to feed and make it as simple and easy as possible. If that goes horribly wrong, you can blame us and we'll gladly take the blame. We must try because we cannot allow this war to drag on for decades and allow countless Ukrainians to die again and again. We must try to do everything in our power to quickly end this war with as much manpower as possible. If we have to fight with stones and sticks or any other thing we can find, we must do whatever is necessary to win. We cannot be proud or hesitate. You are a man of action and motivation, and me too, I want to move forward as quickly as possible and attack Russia as hard as possible and return every inch of Ukrainian land. We will not falter, refuse or negotiate with Russia, because we must devastate the Russians and make them pay for their aggression and stupidity. We cannot calm down and leave any asset unused. Please help me get all these soldiers to work. I will stay here for the rest of my life and fight if we can get these soldiers here to help. There is no other option; Putin must pay. And we have to rally all the troops from all over the world, even if we run out of funds and we can barely afford food and bullets, we have to do what we have to do to win. We must be brave and powerful leaders for this victory to happen, and we must have fearless soldiers behind us, and this is what we stand before us. We just need transportation to the front line so we can all fight. Please put us to work on Ukraine. We will not disappoint. We must show the world what global unity looks like and that the world is moving forward as a collective whole, and we must take care of each other and never judge or devalue anyone because of where they are from. We should see each person as an individual and judge them only on the basis of who they are. We need to give them a chance to prove who they are and push them to be the best people they can be. These are amazing people, just like you and me, and just want to contribute to the world and this war and leave the world a better place for their children; We have to give them the opportunity to do it. This is the least we can do. It will be a huge mistake and send a terrible message if we turn our backs on

these wonderful men. We must be a unifying force in the world right now and cannot exclude anyone. We must form as many alliances and partners as we can find. Just open the door and let's do the rest. That's all we're asking for. We just need a chance to prove who we are, what we can do. Please do not let bureaucracy and politics get in the way of winning the war. In the worst case, if you're not happy, we just send everyone back to where they came from and nothing is lost. But we must try. We can't afford not to try. We provide background checks from the U.S. and all military documents of soldiers and provide everything you need. We will abide by any terms you want to offer in the contract so that we can win this war. Please give us an opportunity. We must give these soldiers some hope in their lives and give them a purpose to live. There is no worse feeling than not having a path or goals in life, and winning this war is the noblest and most honorable goal any person could ever wish for. We have to do it for them, and this will give us results that will be tenfold. We cannot be shortsighted, but we must plan for the future and wealth of the soldiers to survive the Russians, as that would be a very wise move. Please help me work miracles and change some lives and the course of history. It's in your hands. We cannot give up, falter, or fail because humanity is at stake. We must do whatever is necessary. If my soldiers and I have to go all the way from Pakistan to Ukraine, that's what we'll do. If we have to swim or paddle in a small boat or whatever it takes us to get to Ukraine to fight with ourselves, and the Afghans and Syrians are ready to do whatever it takes. You name an obstacle and we will find a way around it or overcome it. Whatever you need for us, you just let us know and we'll find a way. This is an ideal situation for everyone involved, and everyone wins. It will yield so many touching stories of triumph and success that we will all be proud of decades from now to share with our children. We must win this war for our children, and we must make them proud of the unilateral global support we collectively provide to this world war. We must set an example and show the world what teamwork looks like. Please help us. We must try. There is no harm in trying. This whole project is up to you. It all depends on you. Please let's work together. Thank you for your precious time, and I hope that the coming decades will make us friends for life. This is my hope.

Sincerely, Ryan Routh

(b)(6)

aid.in.ukraine@gmail.com

Dear Congressperson,

March 1, 2023

**-We desperately need Ukraine to issue Visas for all of the US trained Afghan soldiers that are fleeing slaughter by the Taliban.** Can you please contact your Ukrainian counterparts and beg of them to issue Visas for the 5,600 Afghan soldiers that we wish to get to the front line to expedite the end of this war.

-We have 10,000 US trained soldiers from the Free Syrian Army that also wish to fight against Russia in Ukraine but none have passports and we need military transport from Erbil Iraq to Poland to get them to the front lines as well. **Please help us coordinate transportation** for these men to join their Ukrainian brothers in Arms against their common enemy -Russia.

-Rep. Barry Moore from Alabama has been so kind to help us with US **background checks** on some of the Afghan soldiers so that we can provide those to Ukraine to help encourage the issuance of Visas but any additional support for background checks and encouragement to the Ukrainian government to help expedite the acceptance of these soldiers we abandon would be appreciated.

-I have attached many **pictures of the atrocities** that occurring daily in Afghanistan by the Taliban and all of these soldiers desperately need hope and purpose, so they wish to end the Ukraine war swiftly so that together we can get back to efforts in Afghanistan to reinstall law and order for that country and its people and children.

Please study the attached photographs and work with me so that we can keep these soldiers from being recruited by the Russians and get them where they are needed most. This is an ideal situation to solve 2 if not 3 problems at one time. Please help us accomplish this.

Ryan Routh

**International Volunteer Center 808-464-8342 aid.in.ukraine@gmail.com**

-I personally would like to encourage the end of sanctions in Iran as they have accepted the millions of Afghan refugees and we must sway them away from the influence of Russia and rebuild our friendship where nuclear weapons are useless.

-Likewise I would also like to encourage lifting sanctions and peace with North Korea by any means possible; to sign an ending to the Korean war; passing the Korean Peninsula Act and the H.Res 152 to create peace with our Asian partners.





**Feb 17, 2023**

**Dear friends,**

Please Help Us Save Lives and Win the War for Humanity in Ukraine-

**How long do we want the war in Ukraine to last, 10 years, 20 years, 30 years or more and trillions of dollars and countless lives?**

**We must flood Ukraine with thousands of US trained soldiers that are sitting around doing nothing from Afghanistan and Syria to win this war quickly.**

The only thing that we need is for you(congressman) to call Ukraine and ask them to issue **Visas** to the US trained Afghan and Syrian soldiers so they can go to Ukraine and fight. Could you please call the Ukraine Foreign Affairs office or the Ukraine Ambassador or Embassies and beg of them to issue Visas to all the 10,000 Afghan soldiers so that we can impact the outcome of the war.

**Have you ever watched a video of a live man having his head cut off? I can send you the video and countless pictures of killing.**

If you are familiar with the book or movie Schindler's List you recall that the point and moral was that lives were saved with just a few dollars and the tragedy realizing that more were not saved; you and I face the exact same predicament today with the catastrophe that we have created in Afghanistan. As they struggle to find ways to escape Afghanistan and being killed by the Taliban leaving everything behind to refugee camps in Iran where US sanctions put wages at 3 US dollars per day. They are all broken and hopelessly stranded and the thousands of US trained soldiers want desperately to join the fight in Ukraine but

Ukraine is looking for US endorsement to use them because they are unfamiliar with their backgrounds. Ukraine's Ministry of Defense is looking for US endorsement and background checks on these soldiers so that we can issue Visas and put these valuable soldiers to good use, before the Russians entice them with generous pay. All that we need is for a Congressperson such as you to help us verify these soldiers and tell Ukraine that they should issue Visas and accept these honorable and dedicated men into their Army. All of these soldiers are US trained and have families and children and are totally dedicated to freedom, human rights and democracy and want no part of the Taliban's slaughter and madness. Please help give these wonderful humans a chance to win this war against Russia as it is the most important thing that we can do. If we can add ten thousand Afghans and then ten thousand from the Free Syrian Army to Ukraine we can take back every inch of Ukrainian territory and get the world back to normal again. We can win this war with just paperwork and Visas and I can do the rest. I will be headed back to Ukraine, Moldova, Iraq and Pakistan to get these guys the paperwork they need and plane tickets to get them to the front line to change the outcome of this war. Please help us.

We each are all faced with the rare opportunity to solve three problems with just one act and solution. The US and the world have failed the Afghan people and have turned their country over the terrorist group the Taliban and have sent everyone fleeing for their lives especially the military. Meanwhile Russia is trying to recruit these soldiers, stranded in their ally country of Iran, and the soldiers of Syria. While most soldiers would prefer to fight for Ukraine, we are not offering them the opportunity to travel to Ukraine to fight, so many may be financially motivated to simply fight for Russia. It is almost imperative that we

establish a place for these fleeing soldiers to fly to and land in a bordering country of Ukraine such as Poland, Moldova, Romania, Slovakia or Hungary. We need cooperation from the embassies to issue transit visas or the foreign Affairs office or NATO to make arrangements for transfer of these soldiers through one of these countries to Ukraine. We must rescue these soldiers from the Taliban, Iran and Russia and allow them to fight for democracy, freedom and Humanity. We can fly these soldiers from either Islamabad Pakistan or Erbil Iraq at a cost of \$500 to \$600 USD and bus them from the receiving airport directly to Ukraine to fight. These soldiers are hiding in fear in Afghanistan and trying to protect their families or stranded in silence in Iran with no hope or future, all of which begging for passage to Ukraine to become useful again. We each have caused this catastrophe and collapse and now the Taliban is trying to take over Pakistan with it campaign of terror, so that country is now under attack. We have the unique opportunity to rescue the refugees of Afghanistan, while keeping them away from Russian hands, and supplying thousands to help win the war in Ukraine. This is a golden opportunity to change the course of history and the outcome of so many fragile lives. We each should do everything in our power to provide this smallest opportunity to a population that merely is asking for the permission to travel to a war zone. We should afford them that.

The Ukrainian government is ready and waiting for both Afghans and Syrian fighters we merely need the funding and cooperation of once receiving country to allow them to pass through. The funding should be the simpler issue, but we need Embassies, Foreign Affairs offices, and NATO to help us arrange an acceptable place to land and legal passage to the border of Ukraine. We can facilitate and type of arrangement

that is demanded and bear any cost to get this done. Moldova is the only non-NATO country but we will take any option that we can create. The Afghan people that had any association with the US or prior government are hunted to be killed and all others are being tortured to tell who they are and give them up, so that no one is safe. Women and girls are also being killed for any attempt to be progressive so not a single civilian is safe. I will provide countless photos of torture, mutilation and murder without due process and it is our minimal moral duty to at least provide an exit strategy and perhaps the opportunity to turn the tide and fight for good in Ukraine. We have 45 soldiers that are ready to fly, if we can just arrange a place to land and we have hundreds more that are getting ready. We plan to set up a base in Erbil and in Islamabad to house the soldiers until we can arrange their flights and we have buses and vans available to transport the soldiers to Ukraine. This is a pivotal moment for freedom and humanity and we have the solution for everyone at our fingertips; we must simply act. It is a perfect puzzle where everyone wins.

**Cost-** The cost to put a soldier on a plane is between \$500 and \$600 US dollars from either Islamabad or Erbil so the cost to give a trained soldier a purpose in life and hope for their families is not a very expensive ask. Once in Ukraine the soldiers should receive \$3000 US dollars per month for fighting on the front lines and with those funds they can support their families and help send more of their comrades to Ukraine as well. If you would like to sponsor an Afghan soldier directly we can offer a list of soldiers that are ready to fly and you can purchase the plane ticket directly for them or donate the funds and we can purchase the ticket. It does not matter how it is done we must get these men into the fight. These highly trained soldiers are frustrated

and hopeless because their abilities are not being put to use as a fight for freedom is just kilometers away. Every human wants a sense of purpose and the ability to contribute to the plight of their fellowman. We must help these men meet their full potential and change the course of history.

**Passports-** While some of the soldiers already have passports the majority do not which means that we must also help those that do not have passports get passports so they can travel and that cost will be on average about the same cost as the plane ticket. Getting passports at this time of turmoil makes the cost of them to up dramatically, but makes our mission all that more important for those that have no money and not even a passport to offer any hope at all. Many of these men remain in Afghanistan with the realization that they cannot travel anywhere and are simply forced to hide like Anne Frank everyday hoping not to be discovered and mutilated while they are still alive with great pain and hopeful to bleed out to end the pain. The Taliban devises the most cruel ways to kill anyone that was associated with the US and the prior government to show the population that they are in control and ruthless. As you can see by just a few of the pictures they enjoy chopping up live humans and mutilating them any way that they can. We cannot allow humans to stay in Afghanistan because they do not have \$50 dollars to get to Pakistan. We must at bare minimum try to help everyone that saw the value of freedom and democracy and basic human rights and help them get to safety. We cannot turn our backs on those that simply hope for a normal life.

**----A story for another day is the fact that we still have sanctions on Iran when they are taking the millions of Afghan refugees and supporting them to clean up the mess that we created. This is an**

**opportune time to resolve our differences and eliminate sanctions and show that we are kind caring people that want the best for everyone. We have now forced them to side with Russia and we must fix that.**

**Ryan Routh**

**International Volunteer Center**

(b)(6)

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**Fightforukraine.com.ua killed-in-ukraine.com**

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(6)

6月 7， 2023

Ministry of National Defense

409 Bei'an Rd, Zhongshan Dist.

Taipei City, Taiwan 104237

Dear Minister of Defense of Taiwan :

世界应该庆祝和珍惜其女性领导人，因为男性总是对生活不满意，一心想战争和征服。你我面临的问题是，中国视你为弱点，必须在男总统天生渴望冲突和战争，动用一切资金和人力保卫祖国之前夺取台湾。我们不能让台湾落在你的眼皮底下。虽然你们做得很出色，但我们必须尽一切努力，直到最后一刻为这场战争做准备。，我们不能假设我们已经做了我们能做的一切。我们已经知道美国不会保卫台湾;这已经得到证明，因此我们必须继续加强防御，以确保我们尽我们所能。

**阿富汗士兵**如你所知，世界和联军花费了**2.5万亿美元**和**20年**的时间训练了**30万名**阿富汗士兵，现在这些士兵是无国籍和失业的。这些是北约训练有素的士兵，他们有战斗经验，知道如何战斗，不怕战争的恐怖，也不会退缩。这些是我们在对抗中国人的前线需要的坚强士兵。乌克兰还告诉我们，坚定的保卫一个国家的战士将比那些服从命令的战士更努力地战斗。我们应该利用这些经验丰富的士兵，他们每天都在与死亡打交道，在战争面前不会停滞不前。这些士兵不仅是最强悍的士兵，而且是最经济的，因为联军士官的收入为**230美元，250美元，CP 300，MJ 350和LTC 450美元**。目前乌克兰前线所有士兵的工资为每月**3000美元**。因此，这些士兵会对全球规范的**10%**感到满意。

**人类屠杀和难民危机** - 此外，这是一场难民危机，如果雇用这些士兵保卫你的国家不够值得，请考虑您正在帮助这些没有希望，未来或生活目标的男人，家庭和孩子。自阿富汗沦陷以来，所有联军伙伴都躲藏起来，挨家挨户躲避塔利班，或在伊朗的难民营中。不幸的人最终被砍下头或被枪杀或折磨，然后被杀死。我下周抵达台湾，我将提供暴行的照片（似乎我把它留在了摩尔多瓦）。但这个项目是双重的，因为你们将为那些挨饿的人提供生命，并提供就业机会来帮助保卫你们的国家免受独裁者的侵害。这对每个



人都有好处。士兵们可以将钱寄回给他们的家人，当你的任期结束时，新总统可以将这些士兵送回伊朗或留住他们;但你会保卫你的家园。

**為中國提高成本/為台灣降低成本**——如果你願意讓這成為一個真正的災難過程，並帶上阿富汗家庭，只要你需要，這些士兵就會無薪戰鬥，你將把更多的平民放在毀滅中國的道路上。这些家庭在伊朗或巴基斯坦没有真正的未来，他们迫切希望有机会过上正常的生活，以便他们的孩子可以再次上学，父母可以在文明社区拥有真正的职业。联军向他们展示了女孩可以上学的正常生活是多么美好，他们可以追逐希望和梦想，他们想要再次这样做。你有能力改变这么多人的生活，同时保护你的国家免受人类的压迫。这是显示世界团结和减缓侵略进展的历史关键时刻。我们必须共同向世界表明，我们是团结的，并将站在一起。

**国际军团**-说到全球军饷和乌克兰军团，我们也从这个实验及其巨大的好处中吸取了教训。除了**50,000**或**100,000**名阿富汗士兵之外，我们可以提高中国的战争成本，从世界各国引进士兵，使其成为**一项全球防御计划**。虽然乌克兰领导层非常自豪和傲慢，但他们成功地将每一位外国士兵赶出了乌克兰，无能、缺乏尊重和不欣赏。我们可以利用这一后果，把那些已经回家的士兵带到台湾，在入侵之前建立另一支全球军队，这样中国就必须考虑它希望杀死多少来自其他国家的人。我們應該給全世界機會與台灣站在一起，表達我們的關心。我可以推广这个项目，作为美国的志愿者努力，这样它就不会来自台湾，我可以召集乌克兰军团的所有旧领导层，这样你就没有责备或责任。由于台湾的条件比乌克兰好，招募将容易得多，非战斗岗位的工作每月只需支付**1200**美元，因此薪水可以低得多，因为他们没有参加积极的战斗。看到来自世界各地的志愿军涌入台湾捍卫自由和民主，难道不是令人振奋的吗？这是在中国入侵之前，我们现在必须做出的大胆可见的公开声明。时间正在迅速溜走，我们等不及了。我们必须在中国伞兵开始淹没天空之前迅速让这些士兵到达地面。我们不能让这场战争持续一天。我们必须确保它拖延数周，以便全球领导人能够决定如何应对。

**乌克兰国际军团**-我们可以通过简单地安装北约训练有素的领导人来解决乌克兰国际军团的一个问题。当我们有普通的军队领导人在权力领导职位上接受过平均培训，而北约训练有素的士兵拥有更多的知识和经验时，就会出现一个主要问题。我们可以吸引成千上万的士兵逃离乌克兰，因为我们有

北约训练有素的军官，所以不会囤积物资并恶劣地对待士兵。我們可以改進這個實驗，使它對台灣有很好的影響力。我曾与来自世界各地的数百名外国士兵一起工作，他们卖掉了他们所拥有的一切去乌克兰战斗，但由于领导不称职，大多数人最终感到失望或死亡。但令人惊讶的是，全世界对自由和人权的奉献。我們應該利用這種動機，不要讓台灣在一天內被佔領，而不尖叫著要求全球支持，並邀請地球上的每個人來與台灣站在一起。

波罗的海国家人链 - 我曾与台北市和地区的几个办事处沟通过，建立一个节日，让成千上万的国际平民沿着海岸线露营，代表世界上每个国家，但没有给出任何使用地点。我曾提出用帐篷城市的视觉元素引入全球支持，就像世界各地的许多抗议活动一样，我已经得到了我的美国国旗、乌克兰国旗和白俄罗斯国旗来代表那些支持台湾的国家的平民，这样我们就可以把它们放在岸边帐篷的屋顶上，向中国表明我们支持你。我們應該舉辦一個像伍德斯托克一樣的音樂節，把平民帶到台灣，提高意識和支持，鼓勵這些平民留下來，只要他們願意。我们应该利用新思想的独创性和现代思维，自由企业如果建立在这种想法的基础上，以确保其未来。你和我必须成为这个现代的领导者，并利用资本主义和民主提供的优势，这些优势与共产主义相反，共产主义不会产生新的想法或创新。我们必须使用使我们的社区变得伟大的结构来确保其继续存在。我们必须每天做出改变，以影响我们周围的每个人，建立这些伙伴关系并推动我们想要的结果。我们不能坐视不理，希望事情对我们有利，因为它们不会。我们必须确保实现我们所期望的结果。我們必須擁抱波羅的海國家模式，並呼喊來自世界各地的國際支持，以雙臂鎖著站在台灣的整個邊界。我們不能默默地希望这种入侵消失，因为它不会。我们越安静，他们就越有可能夺取这个国家。我们必须自豪地与我们的全球伙伴一起大声疾呼，我们不会容忍侵略和杀戮，人类应该按照自己的意愿生活。这是一个关键时刻，你是未来的领导者。我們必須每天通過越來越多的媒體來吸引越來越多的支持者，以確保我們在你總統任期結束之前一直守住台灣。我们有义务在选举之前将国家团结在一起。

去年，我一直致力于支持乌克兰，并派遣数百名士兵到乌克兰作战，确保乌克兰赢，俄罗斯输，我们将实现这一目标。我去过华盛顿特区的每一个国会议员办公室，并乞求支持将这些阿富汗士兵带到乌克兰，以帮助赢得这场战争。人们很快就会了解到，有些人有动力并致力于做正确的事情并把事情做好，而另一些人只是有私利。我希望你的辦公室將是那些希望做出改

變並採取大膽步驟來確保台灣安全未來的人。我希望你们不要像中国人所期望的那样，自满地度过本届总统任期的最后几个月。我希望这些话不要被置若罔闻，许多人丧生，中国的扩张开始。我们应该为这次入侵疯狂地准备，直到上任的最后一天，以便国家从那时起做好准备。我们必须利用这段时间作为一张开放的门票，做出大胆的改变，也许新总统会犹豫不决。这是将许多难民作为难民带入的绝佳机会，他们甚至不需要看起来像士兵;但会慢慢变身为士兵。你有机会做出重大改变，承认你要离开，如果它让一些人感到不安，那就这样吧。你是领导者，领导者必须做出大胆的选择，最好是当他们走出去时;因为它没有成本，但每个人都会看到长期利益。請成為台灣現在需要的勇敢、大膽、無所畏懼的領導者。拜登无能为力，因为中国拥有核武器，所以你必须独自一人，我和整个世界都会来站在你身边，和你一起死，但你必须邀请我们。你必须向全球社会张开双臂，寻求帮助，世界就会跑过来。筹集了数十亿美元，成千上万的志愿者将冲向你提供帮助。您必须拉响警报。你必须要求世界来和你站在一起。如果您不想这样做。我会的，我很乐意来站在你的台阶上，尖叫着寻求支持。你可以声称你没有合法权利阻止我，如果你愿意，你可以否认所有责任。这对我来说是一个完美的安排。我很乐意成为台湾统一世界的逃跑羊。我是可牺牲品，将承担拯救贵国所需的任何风险。我下周到达，但我会留下来，只要从中国拯救你的国家。当一位女性领导人允许中国接管香港时，这是非常令人失望的;太悲惨了。这可能也发生在男性领导人身上，但它树立了一个榜样，中国将效仿并采取行动。我们不能允许同样的模式在今后几个月发生。我们都必须确保这种模式不成立。我们有义务在本任期的最后一秒之前全力支持本届主席。我们不能在这种监视下失败。

我希望这些话能找到一个有行动和动力的人，而不是对辩护感到自满和安慰的人。中国不是俄罗斯，这次入侵将是明智而迅速的，我们不能让它只持续一天，让许多人永远失去生命。我们必须做好最坏的打算，让整个国家充满随时准备好的士兵。我们必须让它像诺曼底登陆日一样困难，并确保我们在乌克兰有一个像亚速斯托尔这样的据点，至少可以阻止中国人一周，这样世界就可以决定它想做什么。我们应该用军队和平民淹没台湾，以确保我们能够在短时间内控制台湾的一部分。我们不能天真和乐观地认为我们可以阻止这样一支强大的力量。即使是美军也很难保卫这么小的土地。这将是珍珠港事件乘以100，这将是现实。我们不能投降;我们不能投降。我希望

计划不是投降。如果这是计划，请告诉我，我会回家。我希望每个人都能以乌克兰为榜样，战斗到死。我會加入這種模式，欣然被埋葬在台灣的土地上。

拜托，我会在这个包裹到达你的办公桌之前到达台湾;但我非常希望與你的一位幕僚或顧問進行短暫的會議，以審查所有這些選項，以及你們允許我採取哪些步驟來幫助拯救台灣。我已经向你们的办公室和军事办公室发送了几封电子邮件，但没有回复。如果整個台灣拒絕一個擁有10萬士兵的美國公民的支持，以及國際軍團的結構和建立全球支持者的帳篷城的能力來圍繞該島並保護它，我將感到非常失望。我当然希望你不要认为，中国会因为坐得很安静，就会忘记你的存在。安静和礼貌不会阻止战争。也许安静和礼貌是亚洲人的个性，我非常欣赏这一点，但此时此刻它并不能阻止侵略，只会邀请它，这就是中国所希望的。不管我是对是错还是傻，举办国际音乐节都会带来旅游和金钱;我有廉价的士兵需要家，而你已经缺少士兵和雇佣妇女来打仗;所以无论如何你都需要士兵。入侵或不入侵这些事情对台湾和世界都有好处。你可以成为破碎的阿富汗的英雄，成为那些不幸流离失所并生活在支持俄罗斯的国家的人的绝佳东道主。讓台灣向這些絕望、貧窮、想要養家糊口的難民張開雙臂，這是一個多麼美妙的人道主義故事。这是一个使他们受益并使您受益的绝佳机会。美国肯定会支持你们为这些难民所做的人道主义努力，我们可以淡化他们是训练有素的士兵这一事实。这对每个人来说都是双赢，双赢，双赢。这些都没有缺点。伊朗签证是80欧元或100美元，我们可以从士兵的月薪中扣除回程飞机公平，并确保他们在您的任期结束时或您希望返回他们时有返回德黑兰的途径。这是一个改变这么多人生活、给孩子们希望和未来的机会。这些孩子的生活被撕裂了，其中许多人的母亲在塔利班寻找丈夫时被屠杀，所以这些孩子在没有母亲和父亲的情况下长大，试图在异国他乡找到养活他们的方法。没有人能找到一份正常的工作，因为塔利班拥有美国留下的生物识别扫描仪，可以识别任何人，他们将被杀死。在伊朗的生活充其量只能找到一份每天支付3到4美元的工作，因此他们作为难民必须生活在贫困线以下。对于这些士兵和家庭来说，在任何国家都是糟糕的。在伊朗或巴基斯坦，儿童不能上学，因为他们不能注册，在阿富汗，女孩也不能上学。他们的正常生活被毀了，看不到解决方案。我们有一支完整的军队供你使用，如果我们能够简单地将你们两个作为面临艰巨挑战的人作为伙伴一起工作，并建立持久的友谊纽带和平行斗争，将我们团结在一

起。在过去的9个月里，我认识了这些阿富汗人，他们现在就像我最好的朋友和兄弟，我也会为他们而死。我非常期待与他们一起上战场，确保他们为自己的孩子活下去。我非常感谢他们的动力、辛勤工作和克服一切困难的决心;这是鼓舞人心的。我希望在某个时候他们可以和我一起住在夏威夷，我们可以一起工作，成为一生的朋友。我当然希望我能自己雇用这些人，因为他们会为我做所有的工作。像任何民族一样，我们必须分清好与坏，但我找到了最好的，他们肯定每天都以绝妙的想法和推动生活前进的极端努力而闪耀。他们激励着我，给了我希望。他们是英雄。

我希望你能认真考虑和花时间考虑我向你提出的提议，而不是把它直接扔进垃圾桶。我当然至少希望对目前的计划和行动方针作出回应。乌克兰还没有智慧和财力将这些士兵带入乌克兰，并声称他们有足够的士兵来完成这项工作;所以这些士兵留给你。你能不能改变他们的生活，拯救你自己的生活。我希望您能花点时间给我发一封电子邮件，说明下一步应该是什么，以及您愿意讨论该计划的哪些部分。我非常喜欢开会，这样我们就可以讨论所有这些选择，并让你们告诉我你接下来希望发生什么。

当我为这个包编译信息时，它会产生更多我必须尝试分享的想法。当我把大部分悲惨的照片留在摩尔多瓦时，我让阿富汗人给我寄来更多，因为悲剧每天都在快乐。我的一个士兵的侄子在寻找他时被杀，因为他是一名联军士兵。在阿富汗，每天都在发生毫无意义的谋杀，杀害婴儿和儿童以及任何不支持塔利班的人。这是一个野蛮的世界，任何人都可能随时被杀死。他们谈到俄罗斯人在一天内杀死了7000人，塔利班将数百人从码头上绑在水中。这是难以想象的疯狂故事。一组照片是塔利班砍下一名男子的头----他在视频开头还活着，在最后被斩首。还有另一张照片，婴儿和母亲在厨房地板上被斩首，**婴儿的头坐在厨房的桌子上。**这是一个令人难以置信的野蛮世界，这些人必须忍受这种日常谋杀，或者找到伊朗或巴基斯坦签证的钱并前往安全地带。当然，世界花费了2.5万亿美元来稳定该地区20年，但现在我们至少应该帮助那些代表自由和人权以及基本文明社会的穷人。我们至少可以为作为士兵和主要目标的人提供一条出路，以及从另一个国家养家糊口的手段。我们不能指望受到制裁的伊朗支持所有难民，巴基斯坦也有自己的问题。**这将是人道主义的事情;**至少接受这些人，在逃亡，寻找一个再次有用的地方。我们花了15年时间培训这些人，**我们不能让这些宝贵的资产浪费掉，在我们迫切需要的时候闲置。**我们不能让这笔投资白费。

我的整个生活现在变成了对地球上每个人为我们这个世界付出的评估。我现在开始评判我经过的每一个陌生人，街道，尤其是在基辅，生活照常进行，就好像不存在战争一样。买一件上面写着乌克兰的T恤，你就已经尽了自己的一份力量。昨晚，2名英国男子和5名乌克兰人在广场上爆发了一场战斗，关于乌克兰男子应该在英国人旁边的前线，每个角落都是如此。当然，英国人和任何回到基辅或利沃夫并乘坐地铁的外国士兵与一群健康的男人和女人一起无忧无虑地生活，这让人想到。我不仅与这里的人搏斗，而且与世界各地坐在家裡无所事事的人搏斗。我有我所有的朋友和家人，可以不关心这场战争或台湾的未来。在我与所有来乌克兰作战的台湾士兵的互动中，他们的态度是一样的，台湾很好，一切都会好起来的，并认为他们会战胜中国人。他们心里想着，他们有足够的人，他们已经准备好了，不需要做更多的事情。我和5、6人谈过，他们都非常自信，1人回到乌克兰，因为他认为台湾是安全的。我建议他留在台湾准备。當我抵達台灣時，會是最好的，台灣最聰明的人也有同樣的思考過程，我們已經做了我們所能做的一切，並做好了充分的準備。我希望一些杰出的领导人知道，你们永远不能准备得太充分，我们必须每周7天，每天24小时不知疲倦地工作，直到本届主席任期结束。我们不能坐以待毙，希望我们已经做得足够多。我们必须转动每一块石头，寻求我们能找到的每一种选择和每一盎司的支持，以便为这场冲突做好准备。我當然希望那些在台灣上台的人，不要像世界上絕大多數人一樣，自私地索取比他們投入到我們世界上的還多。我们每个人都应该确保我们付出一切，我们必须确保我们的孩子过上比我们更好的生活，我们不允许懒惰让我们犯重大错误。我们应该尽最大努力推动历史朝着它应该去的方向发展。我们必须规划这条道路并实现这一目标。在这个关键时刻，我们不能失败。我们必须响应号召，不要害怕。我們必須成為台灣在這個困難時刻渴望和需要聽到的聲音。我们不能等到战争结束。现在是时候了。我希望平静轻松的亚洲心态不会阻止我们为战争做准备。我们应该惊慌失措，尽快做好准备。

我必须说，我对没有子弹的训练有些困惑。我个人认为，士兵必须用真正的子弹来学习真正的战争。对于一个在实践中害怕使用真子弹的国家来说，当他们冲锋时，他们如何杀死中国士兵。这些士兵必须有一定程度的残暴，这样他们才能面对危险并取得胜利。似乎更有理由从阿富汗和世界各地引进外国士兵，他们坚强并被证明在面对死亡时能够生存。我知道自己的弱

点，我依靠别人来弥补我的缺点，我们也应该雇用这份可能不适合温文尔雅的亚洲人的工作。明智的做法是，如果我们真的输了，你会受到各种各样的指责。我很幸运，我不能责怪阿富汗人输给塔利班，而且美国、英国、法国、加拿大、比利时、意大利和许多其他国家在阿富汗都有代表，所以有很多人应该分担责任。你也应该这样做，从尽可能多的国家引进尽可能多的人，让他们发挥领导作用，这样就会有更多责任要承担。有些人只是将损失归咎于阿富汗人是不忠诚或糟糕的士兵，但这不是一个有效的论点。在任何国家的内战中，士兵与邻居和朋友作战，战区变得错综复杂和混乱;我们现在的优势是，敌人将是显而易见的、无关的和外国的，所以这将是全面的战争。

我们可以引入各级领导和支持来帮助这场战争。我有美国陆军上尉，他们随时准备来为你战斗和领导，并带上他们所有的士兵。我可以带加拿大人，巴西人，阿尔巴尼亚人，捷克人，法国人，英国人，德国人，西班牙人，澳大利亚人，哥伦比亚人，基本上地球上的每个国家都来和你站在一起，他们会支付自己的航班费用，带着自己的装备。我们甚至可以带来车臣语和格鲁吉亚语，芬兰语和瑞典语;北非，日本，韩国，津巴布韦，以及任何地方，一旦球开始滚动。只要说出这个词，整个世界就会开放，你的海岸就会被快乐的士兵淹没。它是如此简单和容易。我们怎么能对30名美国顾问感到满意;即使是3000人，我们也应该对我们允许的士兵人数没有限制。如果我们付不了多少钱，我们可以提供我们能提供的一切，如果我们只需要让士兵自愿站岗;我们也将填补所有志愿者的角色。我有很多人想为乌克兰而战;我有13岁、14岁、15岁、16岁的孩子想为乌克兰而战，如果我们敲响警钟并做需要做的事情，他们会来保卫台湾。大多数国家都在寻找吸引游客的方法。我们可以吸引成千上万的人来这里作为志愿者呆几个月，花很多钱，平衡我们必须支付的士兵的费用。我們可以刺激經濟，向世界介紹台灣，因為我們都像波羅的海國家一樣，手挽手阻止共產主義的傳播。

我在基辅开始了一个旗帜项目，为我知道已经死去的20人制作了20面乌克兰小旗帜，我认为这永远不会奏效，也没有人会添加更多旗帜，但慢慢地增加了一些旗帜，随着时间的推移，越来越多的旗帜，现在一年后，Indepedence广场的草地上有数千面旗帜，它已经长大了，我們在台灣也可以做同樣的事情。一旦我们有了20或30人，我们将得到越来越多的人，并让来自全球的支持者填满整个国家。你会惊讶于涌现的支持和关心我们世界的未来及其所走道路的人们。我们不能让这个大好机会溜走。你们站在不断

变化的世界的最前沿，我们必须作为平民共同努力，确保无辜人民不被杀害和土地不公正地夺走。这与民主或共产主义无关；一个群体不能简单地来偷另一个国家的土地作为他们自己的土地。杀戮和夺取土地是基本的恐怖主义，在我们的现代社会是不允许的，全世界都明白这一原则，并将与台湾站在一起，确保它不会倒下。

除了为那些死去的人竖起小乌克兰国旗外，我还为支持乌克兰的国家竖起了大旗帜。我最终与台湾一起竖起了五十面国旗，当然是为了台湾的几名士兵和捐赠给乌克兰医院的数百万美元。我有一个疯狂的乌克兰女士，她似乎是俄罗斯人，爱中国，讨厌台湾，把我的台湾国旗从墙上撕下来。我的台湾士兵朋友黎志（Le Chine）又拿了一面台湾国旗，他和我一起把国旗重新挂在墙上。CNA新闻的钟女士做了一个关于台湾国旗的报道。疯狂的女士再次偷走了旗帜，勒能够得到他的好友里奥库克，他在这里学习战争，给了我另一个来代替它。仅仅一两个星期后，这位疯狂的女士和她的追随者砍下了所有国家的国旗，竖起了一面乌克兰大旗。当我问她为什么不要国际支持时，她跑去报警。现实情况是，乌克兰都不想要外国士兵或外国志愿者；他们都想自己打这场战争。令人困惑的是，没有军队来与乌克兰作战，他们赶走了少数愿意提供帮助的人。他们正在把我赶出这个国家，因为我的90天已经到了，他们不会让我多呆一会儿，让这数千名士兵完成实施。精神错乱。

CNA的故事在：<http://www.cna.com.tw/news.aipl/202206070005.aspx>

我们都在香港失败了，我们都应该感到非常羞耻，我们不能让这种情况再次发生。我曾给香港的兰嘉莉女士发过电子邮件，鼓励她支持人权，但我们在那场战斗中都失败了，我们不能再失败了。我们都应该感到羞耻，我为我没有去战斗而感到羞耻。我们都应该感到尴尬。我們距台灣發生同樣的災難只有幾個月的路程，我們必須非常迅速地工作。不幸的是，乌克兰一直是一个分心的国家，但我们必须迅速转移我们的优先事项，尽快启动这个项目并实现它。我们不能浪费第二。

我们有250至300名阿富汗士兵，他们持有护照，准备今天飞行和部署。他们中的一些人买得起机票，但有些人买不起。在理想情況下，我們可以包機或派遣軍機到巴基斯坦伊斯蘭堡接這些士兵，並盡快把他們送到台灣。我們有成千上萬沒有照護照的人，可以在幾天內登上飛機，在台灣準備戰



鬥。这些人都准备做任何要求他们做的事情。他们非常渴望做任何要求的事情。我们可以挖自己的战壕，做任何需要的事情来为这场战争做准备。他们充分意识到准备战斗站和准备战争。他们会很乐意走第一线，让你的士兵走第二线和第三线。他们不会动摇、责备或退缩。我会和他们在一起，战斗到死。我们无处可退;所以我们必须赢。乌克兰有土地和邻居可以奔跑，所以我們必須在台灣戰鬥到死，我們會的。我有很多朋友在乌克兰死去;卖掉他们拥有的一切，来到这里，为自由和人性而战和牺牲。在这场愚蠢的战争中，在这里死去的外国士兵的数量确实令人难过，它将持续数十年，还有数千人死去;但我们不能让台湾像克里米亚那样轻易成为目标。你应该效仿泽连斯基，每天穿上战斗装备，每天用鼓舞人心的信息来召集你的部队，你会赢，我们必须每天做好准备，准备好战斗。

俄罗斯招募 - 因为乌克兰没有钱也没有情报来雇用这数千名士兵，因为俄罗斯和瓦格纳集团的报价非常诱人，时间正在慢慢流逝。俄罗斯在伊朗和巴基斯坦以及难民营设立了很好的办事处，并正在推动阿富汗人加入俄罗斯。他们为士兵提供 2000 到 7000 美元，具体取决于工作和他们以前的培训。对于那些每天在伊朗做苦工赚3到4美元的人来说，这是非常好的钱。你会帮乌克兰巨大的忙，从伊朗和俄罗斯招募人员手中拯救这些士兵。大多数阿富汗士兵必须为伊朗官员提出医疗借口，说明为什么他们不能去为俄罗斯而战。似乎是伊朗经济签证的一部分，允许他们进入该国的想法是他们都可以去为俄罗斯而战。特朗普和修订后的制裁使这场战争变得更加艰难。一些士兵被迫离开，许多叙利亚士兵的飞机被飞往俄罗斯作战。由于这个地区处于混乱之中，我们应该从这个混乱中挑选出最优秀和最聪明的人，并使他们有用。这些人和你我一模一样，谦虚、诚实、敬业，具有伟大的道德品质和价值。这些人是具有良好价值观的正直人，他们了解自由和基本人权的价值，并希望他们的孩子过上好日子，接受良好的教育，并取得成功。他们厌倦了恐怖主义和野蛮的生活，只想站在善良的一边，对抗邪恶，站在人类胜利的一边。我們需要幫世界一個忙，把他們從俄羅斯招募人員的騷擾中拯救出來，並將他們帶到台灣為人類的未來而戰。

庇護 - 正如我已經提到的，你可以只允許這些家庭來台灣，給他們一塊不大的草地或公寓，他們會為你爭奮多年，沒有薪水。妻子们愿意工作来购买食物，她们只会对文明的生活感到满意，没有街上无谓的谋杀。他们只是想在一个代表世界上正确事物的地方过上新生活。他们想成为这个社区的一

部分。这些都是非常聪明、受过教育、勤奋的人，他们总是会全力以赴，投入的比付出的多于付出的。在未来几十年里，这些男人和家庭将成为任何社区的宝贵资产。我们可以从整堆士兵中挑选出我们想要的性格品质。我们已经为这些经过美国背景调查的人准备了简历、申请和文件，并且可以继续这样做，并可以通过视频提供无数的采访，以分享他们是谁，并确保他们出于正确的理由为您工作。我们内部已经每天都在淘汰所有那些不代表我们所珍视的价值观和未来的人。因此，我们只会找到最优秀的人加入我们的战斗并成为我们社区的一部分。如果所有这些都失败了，我将找到一种方法将这些人的带到我的城镇，以便他们可以帮助我并为我的社区做出贡献。

我在华盛顿与中央情报局凯特的美国伙伴说，没有人读过任何东西，甚至很少有人采取行动;这是一个可悲的观点，但它往往是真的。这份文件可能并不完美，因为担心它甚至不会被阅读。我为任何错误道歉，但我确实希望它能找到一个能够行动的人，帮助我确保台湾保持自由和幸福，就像过去几十年一样。请帮我开一个5分钟的简单会议，看看你允许我实施这个提案的哪些部分。我们有一个由无限合作伙伴组成的整个网络，他们的想法比我多得多，可以帮助确保我们赢得这场战争。我可能不知道你正在做和已经做过的所有工作，但我们总是可以做得更多。请让我们追求每一个选择和每一个想法，并利用我们掌握的每一个资源。我們應該釋放這支龐大的文官軍的力量來擁抱台灣，讓我們摟著你們，保護你們。让我们成为保护你们每个人的的人盾。讓我們與每個台灣人合作，以確保他們活著和健康。阿富汗人非常生气，他们的总统在危险面前逃跑了，他们的国家崩溃了，他们不会让这种情况再次发生。感谢泽连斯基树立的榜样，我们必须在台湾做同样的事情，把自己绑在一起，永不退缩或屈服于任何事情。如果我们必须与船和国家一起沉没，这就是世界所要求的。我们都在这里，来自世界各地的，随时准备与你们站在一起，战斗到痛苦的结局。我们必须塑造我们世界的未来，制止不可接受的行动。我们不能静静地坐视这种情况发生。我会尖叫，成千上万的人像我一样从你们的海岸阻止这场灾难的发生。现在是时候了。我们必须团结军队并表明立场。再一次，你可以把所有的责任都推到我身上，退后一步，让它展开。我们可以做到这一点。我們可以拯救台灣，但我們必須採取行動。请帮助我只允许我采取行动。我只需要一片海岸线，自由工作，被看到和听到，以及军方的一点合作。我们可以做到这一点;我们可以阻止这场战争或赢得这场战争。我们可以做到这一点。让我们实现它。

谢谢你的时间，

瑞安·劳斯

国际志愿者中心

(b)(6)

信号， 微信， 电报， Viber， 微信， 短信

[Aid.in.Ukraine@gmail.com](mailto:Aid.in.Ukraine@gmail.com) [fightforukraine.com.ua](http://fightforukraine.com.ua) [killed-in-ukraine.com](http://killed-in-ukraine.com)

April 4, 2023

Dear Oleksiy Reznikov,

I understand the Budanov does not want to accept any of the 100,000 to 200,000 Afghan soldiers that are begging to come and fight nor the 5,000- 10,000 of the Free Syrian Army. I have mailed him an entire package that I have provided some copies of the supporting argument for you to review as well and I have given him complete files on about 20 Afghan soldiers with all their certificates and background checks from the US and family photos as well as many pictures of the awful slaughter of countless Afghans by the Taliban in Afghanistan. I also sent the same package to President Zelenskyy's office in hopes that together we may be able to convince Budanov that trying these soldiers might be worthwhile. If we all want an endless supply of extremely economical soldiers this is the way to go. They are all stranded refugees that are hopeless and hopefully Budanov would enjoy the power to control and dictating the terms for these soldiers. Together we must appeal to what makes him happy and show him that it is a good idea and beneficial towards saving Ukrainian lives. Your insight into what makes him dislike the Afghans would be a tremendous help and helping us craft a proposal that would satisfy him. Most of the people that we talk to with the military are on board with the idea but obviously cannot cross Budanov. If we cannot sway his opinion, we would also like any ideas you have towards a side project that would not affect him. Please help us find a solution. I can gladly provide all of the list of soldiers and files and backgrounds or whatever you need. I think that you have already indirectly conveyed to my partner Volodymyr that Budanov is not on board, but perhaps if we all met and to discuss how to meet Budanov's concerns and demands that would be extremely helpful. This is an extremely economical resource that comes in great quantities as complete units and not highly paid one at a time soldiers from the west. It seems like a winning situation for everyone and keeps these soldiers out of the hands of the Russians. Please help us. Volodymyr and I and Zulia from the Ukrainian Legion would enjoy just five minutes of your time anywhere anytime.

Sincerely, Ryan Routh (b)(6) [aid.in.ukraine@gmail.com](mailto:aid.in.ukraine@gmail.com)

Fightforukraine.com.ua    killed-in-ukraine.com

June 10, 2023

US Embassy in Ukraine

4 A. I. Sikorky Street

Kyiv, Ukraine 04112

Dear Honorable Ambassador Brink,

I and Volodymyr Krasnov have been trying to sell Ukraine on thousands of Afghans for 6 months. I was in Washington for 2 weeks and delivered letters to every congressional office, as well as mailed to the State Department and White House as well as the Pentagon; with no success. Here in Ukraine we were able to get all of the leaders interested over many months of conversation. The GUR division of the military and the International Legion are very interested but do not have the power apparently to generate Transit Visas to get the soldiers here. Reznikov and Budanov have had 8 Afghan soldiers here for a few years and a few since 2014 and they have not been impressed by their performance, as well as request for residency and other complaints and request, so they are not excited about thousands more with the same attitude which is understandable. There is one of the 8 Afghan soldiers that is excellent and was set to become the leader of this new unit. Some of the governors on the security council with Danilov had agreed to use 30 of the soldiers in a special mission implanting them in the Russian Army and wanted to test 200 soldiers to put into the Legion as a pilot program. But they had asked to us to furnish all the gear for the soldiers which the soldiers could buy, but they added 20 drones and 20 thermal/night vision units to the list; which we could also eventually find. But it seems in this most recent rounds of meetings they have backtracked and now would like for someone to fund the training and expenses of these soldiers at a price of 10,000 dollars per soldier. That puts it beyond private funding and trips to the Ministry of Finance rendered nothing; so it was passed to you. Obviously the first 230 would be 2.3 million and they would like to bring another 1000 soon at a cost of 10 million. It is assumed that they would take over the payroll of the soldiers and food and expenses after these funds are gone. No country has sent their army and it seems we should deploy these soldiers as they are begging to fight and would be a tremendous asset if we manage it correctly.

My main argument is that they are economical and will save us money, but Ukraine cannot figure how to mesh different pay groups which seems odd. They are also very concerned about where to return these soldiers to once we are done with them, so we must possibly work with Pakistan so that if we fly them out of there that we can send them back, which seems fair. Otherwise making arrangements with some country in that region to make this happen or one of the countries that does not require Visas for Afghans in Africa, Haiti, Samoa, Cook Islands or whatever other country does not have restrictions. If we can establish a return policy that will make this process so much smoother. Otherwise granting them a parcel of land that they will be isolated to, if we cannot return them. I am including a contract that I started to help introduce the soldiers to the expectations here in Ukraine that I hoped would eliminate the soldiers that want to come here for the wrong reasons and get to the good men. Ukraine seems to stumble with the idea of a much more detailed contract than their standard military contract in order to prevent some of the issues that arise. I have begged to establish an office in Pakistan so that we can interview these soldiers and have them sign very detailed contracts that lay out all of the expectations before they even leave. We must establish every item for compensation for injury and loss of life and all possible scenarios before they get on a plane. Ukraine had wanted them to fly as tourist and land in

Poland, Romania or Moldova and hopefully make their way to Ukraine to fight; I suggest that we meet everyone and get them here so no one wanders off. Ukraine also thinks that once they are here they will refuse the fight. Again, if we have contracts and means to send them back or elsewhere we can avoid this. I will certainly be happy to work in Pakistan or help with busing soldiers to Ukraine or whatever is need to make this happen. These soldiers are just like any population from any country where we have good and bad, smart and dumb and we must simply sort through the thousands and get the ones that want to fight for the right reasons. If we can establish the proper safeguards and cooperation with Ukraine I am certain that they can negotiate and manage some of these cost; just some partnering would go a very long ways.

The other issue is that we will run out of soldiers very quickly with passports. We only have 300 to 400 with passports and the Taliban makes that costly and dangerous. If we can arrange some military transport at some point in the project that would be great. I get the feeling that Ukraine in happy with the status quo of the war and I assume that it will go on for decades, so it seems a new source of soldiers will eventually be needed.

Volodymyr said that you were surprised that you were not notified about this project sooner, but I visited your embassy 3 or 4 times and was always rudely turned away and not even allowed to leave a letter. I even was there with a large sign across the street asking for help with my 20,000 soldiers and many of your staff took pictures but the second day the guards said they would call the Police. I also sent 3 or 4 letters to your office as well with no response. I can only assume that this letter and package will end up in the trash as well. I will be in Taiwan for the next month to see if they will accept these soldiers; but the reception so far has been very cold. It seems they have their white flags ready to deploy. After that I may find myself in Haiti, as that is where my soldiers wish to fly to as it does not require a Visa; so I will be there to receive them and hope I do not get killed. I do hope that this information finds someone that can help and is interested in the future of our world. I will continue to do all that I can but with hundreds of doors slammed in my face I am losing my persistence. I hope that you can help move any of these projects forward either here, or Taiwan or Haiti or anywhere that soldiers are needed. We should use this asset that we have available somewhere and try to save some lives and give some children a bright future possibly. We should at least try to help all of the kids that have no part in all of this craziness. Thanks so much for your time.

Ryan Routh

(b)(6)

[aid.in.ukraine@gmail.com](mailto:aid.in.ukraine@gmail.com) [fightforukraine.com.ua](http://fightforukraine.com.ua) [killed-in-ukriaine.com](http://killed-in-ukriaine.com)

Dear US Embassy,

June 7, 2023

As you are aware, the Afghans soldiers are hunted and killed daily as well as their wives and kids and fleeing to Iran and Pakistan yields limited options. We spent 2 trillion dollars and 15 years training these soldiers that are now stateless refugees and we should use that asset that we created. If you cannot convince Ukraine to take these soldiers, we should send them to **Taiwan or Haiti** to support and fight. This is a humanitarian crisis that we should use to our advantage to solve other global issues. These soldiers are desperate and begging for help to stay alive and find a new life anywhere on the planet. One of the soldiers that wants to come to Ukraine was jailed today by Iran, and more certainly will be jailed or forced to join the Russian or Wagner forces. They are harassed by Iranian authorities, and they must come up with medical ailments that prevent them from fighting for Russia. The situation is constantly devolving and only going to get worse. We have 300 men with passport that are ready to fly anywhere that will put them to work and issue visas. Beyond that we have thousands upon thousands that do not have passports that would require military transport out of Islamabad or Erbil Iraq to Ukraine, Taiwan or Haiti or any other hotbed that we need soldiers. It is an ideal scenario whereby these soldiers will merely be relocated as a humanitarian project and then turned into soldiers slowly to not upset Russia, China or Haiti criminals. We can easily send thousands to each location and solve many needs. The biggest advantage as you know is that these soldiers are economical. The pay with coalition forces was 220 to 300 USD per month so the pay scale is manageable in every arena. Please partner with me so that we can convince Ukraine that we can work through the issues of contracts with these soldiers prior to arrival to ensure that they will perform as expected, safeguards of where to send them if they underperform and support to make this project work as well as sell Taiwan and Haiti on hiring these soldiers. Not one single country has sent their army to support to Ukraine, and we have a complete army that is NATO trained and war tested, and we can manage their performance. This war in Ukraine will drag on for decades and they must have a constant supply of soldiers as local soldiers as written in the paper today will soon be poor. We have interviewed hundreds of soldiers and spoken to thousands, and they have hope in fighting for Ukraine to give them purpose in life again and the chance to impact this war against aggression and stand for freedom and

human rights. Any of these soldiers could have signed up with Russia for between 3000 and 7000 per month to fight for them, but they refuse. But if we do not start the project soon, we will have lost all credibility and starting this project again later will be extremely hard to accomplish; all of the leaders will have lost faith in Ukraine and disbanded. We have sold and pushed this project for 6 months and every is ready to move. Those with passports are ready to buy tickets if the Visa will be issues and prepared to purchase the gear once they arrive in Ukraine. Ukraine is worried that soldiers will run off or not want to fight once they get here; but we must meet them at the airport and have them sign contracts prior to leaving Iran to ensure they do what is requested. We must help Ukraine fix and navigate all of the issues that are stumbling blocks for them. We have a relationship with the Afghans and can help navigate the issues. Foremost is finding a place to send them once Ukraine is done with them; if we can find a host country like Haiti or somewhere to set up a community for them that would be excellent. In my few interactions with all of my Taiwan contacts they seem to feel as if the US will save them and that they have the situation under control. You certainly realize that they will attack while there is a female president and Biden is in office; so that is this year. Since the US is not fighting for them, we should send the thousand of Afghan soldiers there to help defend so that the war can last a week and not a day, and give the world time to react. Please help me convince Taiwan to take these soldiers. Now that one has been arrested in Iran none of the Afghans are safe in Iran; soon all of them will be arrested and tortured. Trump and sanctions has caused this catastrophe. Please help me with military transport for all of those without passports to Taiwan, or please help me negotiate with Maria Isabel Salvador in Haiti to add thousands to the Haiti police force and bring back law and order to that country. You have the power and influence to change history and so many lives and so many wars and all we must do is arrange some flights and get these soldiers back to work and help feed their families and give them a new chance at life. These families are just like you and I and these kids deserve to get back to school and to a normal life. We can do that while at the same time fixing global issues. I know the entire world is done with Afghanistan, but we can make this investment payoff now. Please help me save these men and their kids; please they need not suffer anymore. Ryan Routh

(b)(6)

[aid.in.ukraine@gmail.com](mailto:aid.in.ukraine@gmail.com) [fightforukraine.com.ua](http://fightforukraine.com.ua)



**From:** [REDACTED] (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Mon, 16 Sep 2024 02:38:52 +0000  
**To:** [REDACTED] (b)(6)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] (b)(6)  
**Subject:** FYI-Trump assassination suspect reportedly is pro-Ukraine, Taiwan

Hi [REDACTED] (b)(6)

Here to flag the man accused of pointing an AK-47 at former President Donald Trump on Sunday afternoon, Ryan Wesley Routh.

Routh, 58, is a pro-Ukrainian activist who had also previously lived in Hawaii. His Facebook posts include efforts to recruit thousands of US civilians to fight to defend Ukraine, and statements in support of human rights in Taiwan. He had eight previous arrests for minor offences.

<https://www.thetimes.com/world/us-world/article/trump-assassination-attempt-update-latest-news-2xpldkicld>

Regards,

[REDACTED] (b)(6)

**From:** (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)  
**Sent:** Mon, 16 Sep 2024 12:21:52 +0000  
**To:** (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (ODNI)  
**Cc:** (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Information About Interview German Journalist Interview with Ryan Wesley Routh  
**Attachments:** (b)(6) @tagesspiegel.de sent you Interview mit Routh via WeTransfer

(b)(6);  
(b)(7)(C)

(b)(5)

• (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

**Subject:** Information About Interview German Journalist Interview with Ryan Wesley Routh

PII Colleagues,

Please find below and attached emails we just (b)(6) regarding an interview that a German journalist conducted **with Ryan Wesley Routh**, the individual allegedly involved with the incident yesterday in West Palm Beach, Florida. The interview was conducted in Kyiv in 2022.

(b)(6);  
(b)(7)(C)

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

**Senior Regional Security Officer | Supervisory Special Agent | Diplomatic Security Service  
U.S. Embassy Berlin & Consulates in Germany**

**Email:** (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) @state.gov

**Office:** (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

**Mobile**

**Anytime U.S. Direct Line:** (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Teams Phone System)

~~SBU LAW ENFORCEMENT~~

~~SBU LAW ENFORCEMENT~~

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**From:** (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 16, 2024 1:33 PM  
**To:** (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)@state.gov>; (b)(6); (b)(7)(C); (b)(6);  
(b)(6); (b)(7)(C); (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)  
(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)  
**Subject:** Interview with Ryan Wesley Routh

Legatt colleagues,

Forwarding the attached/below information (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) mentioned. PD will let us know if/when the journalist responds; however, they do have their contact information.

Best regards,

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

Office Management Specialist  
Regional Security Office  
U.S. Embassy Berlin  
Tel: (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)  
Mobile: (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)  
(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)@state.gov

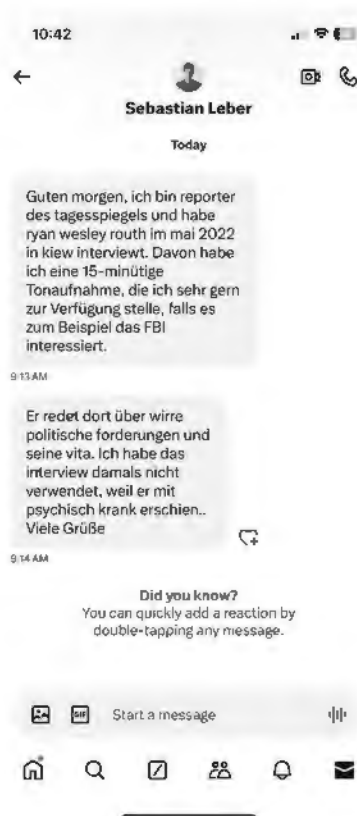
### ~~SBU-LAW ENFORCEMENT~~

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**From:** BerlinPCO@state.gov <BerlinPCO@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 16, 2024 1:21 PM  
**To:** (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)@state.gov>  
**Cc:** (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Fw: Datei verschickt.

Dear (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

As discussed, please find the following information for RSO review. The journalist sent the interview by WeTransfer; email attached above. Attaching the screenshot of initial contact from our social media as well.



Best,

(b)(6)

Public Correspondence Office

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Correspondence Unit

Embassy of the United States of America/Botschaft der Vereinigten Staaten von Amerika  
Pariser Platz 2

14191 Berlin

Germany

---

**From:** Sebastian Leber (b)(6)@tagesspiegel.de>

**Sent:** Monday, September 16, 2024 12:52

**To:** BerlinPCO@state.gov <BerlinPCO@state.gov>

**Subject:** Datei verschickt.

You don't often get email from (b)(6) @tagesspiegel.de. [Learn why this is important](#)

Sehr geehrte Damen und Herren,

ich habe Ihnen soeben per WE-Transfer mein Interview mit Ryan Wesley Routh geschickt, dass ich am 16. Mai 2022 auf dem Platz vor der Sophienkirche in Kiew geführt habe.

Bitte leiten Sie es weiter an alle Sicherheitskreise, die es interessieren könnte. Vermutlich wird Ihnen das meiste bereits bekannt sein, aber vielleicht hilft es ja, das Gesamtbild seiner Vita abzurunden.

Für Nachfragen stehe ich natürlich gern zur Verfügung.

Herzliche Grüße

Der Tagesspiegel  
Sebastian Leber  
Reporter  
Askanischer Platz 3  
10963 Berlin

Telefon (b)(6)

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Verlag Der Tagesspiegel GmbH  
Askanischer Platz 3, 10963 Berlin  
Geschäftsführung: Gabriel Grabner, Nicolas Köhn  
Amtsgericht Charlottenburg HRB 43850 B

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Hier finden Sie den Tagesspiegel im Netz:

<http://www.tagesspiegel.de>

<http://www.facebook.com/tagesspiegel>

<https://twitter.com/tagesspiegel>

Sie möchten Teil des Tagesspiegelteams werden: <https://verlagsjobs.tagesspiegel.de/>

PS: Lesen Sie den Tagesspiegel Checkpoint - Berlins beliebtester Newsletter. Hier geht es zur [kostenlosen Anmeldung](#).

**From:** WeTransfer  
**Sent:** Mon, 16 Sep 2024 10:48:42 +0000 (UTC)  
**To:** berlinpco@state.gov  
**Subject:** (b)(6)@tagesspiegel.de sent you Interview mit Routh via WeTransfer



(b)(6)@tagesspiegel.de  
sent you Interview mit Routh

1 item, 15.3 MB in total • Expires on 19 September, 2024

**Interview mit Routh** hier kommt wie angekündigt das Interview

Get your files

Download link

(b)(6)

1 item

WhatsApp Audio 2024-09-16 at 09.31.39.mp4

15.3 MB

To make sure our emails arrive, please add [noreply@wetransfer.com](mailto:noreply@wetransfer.com) to your contacts.

[About WeTransfer](#) · [Help](#) · [Legal](#) · [Report this transfer](#)

**From:** Howard Dotson  
**Sent:** Mon, 16 Sep 2024 13:49:27 -0500  
**To:** undisclosed-recipients:  
**Bcc:** KyivACS@state.gov  
**Subject:** Fwd: Gunman at Mara Largo Does Represent American Military Volunteers in Ukraine

This gunman at Mara Largo does not represent the American volunteers and advisors supporting Ukrainian Defense Forces. US authorities should vet and recommend American veterans seeking to serve in the Ukrainian Foreign Legion.

If you do not have an honorable discharge and a copy of your DD 214 you are just another tourist and youtube warrior. Ukraine deserves the best from our veteran community. The US Congress should introduce the Slava Ukraine Bill.

If you lie to Ukraine about your US military experience you are committing stolen valor and you should be prosecuted in a military court.

Chaplain Howard Dotson  
5 Missions in Ukraine  
Minneapolis

(b)(6)

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Howard Dotson (b)(6)  
**Date:** Mon, Sep 16, 2024 at 1:46 PM  
**Subject:** Fwd: Gunman at Mara Largo Does Represent American Military Volunteers in Ukraine  
**To:**

This gunman does not represent the American volunteers and advisor supporting Ukrainian Defense Forces. US authorities should vet and recommend American veterans seeking to serve in the Ukrainian Foreign Legion.

If you do not have a honorable discharge and a copy of your DD 214 you are just another tourist and youtube warrior. Ukraine deserves the best from our veteran community. The US Congress should introduce the Slava Ukraine Bill.

If you lie to Ukraine about your US mil

Chaplain Howard Dotson  
US Army Veteran  
5 Missions in Ukraine  
Minneapolis

(b)(6)

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Howard Dotson (b)(6)  
**Date:** Mon, Sep 16, 2024 at 10:32 AM



Subject: Gunman at Mara Largo Does Represent American Military Volunteers in Ukraine  
To:

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2024/09/15/ryan-wesley-routh-trump-assassination-attempt-suspect/?utm\\_source=alert&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=wp\\_news\\_alert\\_revere&location=alert](https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2024/09/15/ryan-wesley-routh-trump-assassination-attempt-suspect/?utm_source=alert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=wp_news_alert_revere&location=alert)

I have been to Ukraine 5 times and I have repeatedly shared my concerns about some of these YouTube warriors with no military experience. I asked the MN Congressional delegation to introduce the Slave Ukraine Bill. Where it is stolen valor to lie about your military experience with our allies.

July 2022 I had helped stabilize and prepare a medical evacuation for an American who came to "volunteer" but stopped taking his antipsychotic medications. I reported two other Americans in Ukraine who defrauded Ukrainian Defense Forces and our humanitarian partners. The Ugly American stereotype persists.

Yes this political violence often has a mental health component. Another dimension is the current toxic political rhetoric and the social media amplification China, Russia and Iran are attacking us in the cyber arena again just as 2016.

May 2024 in Kyiv I recommended to the Pentagon that we partner more with the cyber defense analysts in Ukraine.

Chaplain Howard Dotson  
5 Missions in Ukraine  
Minneapolis

(b)(6)

**From:** (b)(3); (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Wed, 26 Jul 2023 00:39:59 +0430  
**To:** CANVCAfghanSIVApplication@state.gov  
**Subject:** Fwd: (b)(3); (b)(6)  
**Attachments:** (b)(3); (b)(6)

(b)(3); (b)(6)

(b)(3); (b)(6)

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(3); (b)(6)



U.S. Department of State  
**PETITION FOR SPECIAL IMMIGRANT CLASSIFICATION  
FOR AFGHAN SIV APPLICANTS**

Approved OMB 1405-0134  
Expires 11-30-2024  
Estimated Burden 1 Hour\*

**PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT YOUR ANSWERS IN THE SPACE PROVIDED BELOW EACH ITEM**

Only provide information for a deceased principal applicant when specifically instructed.

1. Last Name(s) <i>(List all spellings)</i>		2. First Name(s) <i>(List all spellings)</i>		3. Full Name <i>(In native alphabet)</i>	
4. Are you applying as the surviving spouse or child of a deceased principal applicant per section 602(b)(2)(C) of Public Law 111-8? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If yes, provide the following information for the <b>deceased principal applicant</b> (4a-e).					
4a. Full Name <i>(Last Name(s), First Name(s))</i>			4b. Full Name in Native Alphabet		
4c. Date of Birth <i>(mm-dd-yyyy)</i>		4d. Place of Birth <i>(City, State/Province, Country)</i>		4e. National Identity Number <i>(Tazkera)</i>	
5. Clan or Tribe Name <i>(If applicable)</i>			6. All other names/aliases <i>(If applicable)</i>		
7. Date of Birth <i>(mm-dd-yyyy)</i>			8. Place of Birth <i>(City, State/Province, Country)</i>		
9. Passport Number		10. National Identity Number <i>(Tazkera)</i>		11. Sex <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	
12. Email Address and Phone Number					
13. Current Physical Address			14. Father's Full Name		
			15. Mother's Full Name		
16. Provide information for current spouse, if any:					
Name <i>(Last Name(s), First Names(s))</i>		Date of Birth <i>(mm-dd-yyyy)</i>	Place of Birth		Date of Marriage <i>(mm-dd-yyyy)</i>
17. Provide names and dates of birth for children under the age of 21, if any:					
Name <i>(Last Name(s), First Names(s))</i>		Date of Birth <i>(mm-dd-yyyy)</i>	Name		Date of Birth <i>(mm-dd-yyyy)</i>
a.			b.		
c.			d.		
e.			f.		
g.			h.		
i.			j.		
18. List all countries you have entered in the last ten years. <i>(Give the year of each visit)</i>			19. List all countries that have ever issued you a passport.		

20. Have you ever lost a passport or had one stolen?

☐ Yes ☐ No

21. List your last five employers, including your current employer. If you are filing this form as a surviving spouse or child, list the deceased's last five employers.

Company or Employer Name	Work Location (base or city/province)	Job Title	Supervisor's Name	Supervisor's Email Address	Dates of Employment (mm-dd-yyyy) or "Present"		Reason for Separation (if no longer employed)
					From	To	

22. Have you or your deceased spouse or parent ever applied for Chief of Mission approval? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If YES, please provide the case number(s) of the application(s).

23. Additional Information (if needed)

You may use this section to provide additional information if the space provided above is not enough. Indicate the question number you are answering in the box next to "Item".

a. Item Number \_\_\_\_\_

b. Item Number \_\_\_\_\_

c. Item Number \_\_\_\_\_

I understand all the information I have provided in, or in support of, this application may be provided to other U.S. government agencies authorized to use such information for purposes including enforcement of the laws of the United States. I understand all of the information contained in this form and I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is complete, true and correct. I understand that any willfully false or misleading statement or willful concealment of a material fact made by me herein may result in refusal of the visa or denial of admission to the United States, and may subject me to criminal prosecution and/or removal from the United States.

24. Applicant's Signature (Typed or hand-written signatures are permitted)

Date (mm-dd-yyyy)

#### CONFIDENTIALITY STATEMENT

INA Section 222(f) provides that records relating to the issuance and refusal of visas shall be considered confidential and shall be used for the formulation, administration, or enforcement of the immigration, nationality, and other laws of the United States and for limited other purposes provided for in section 222(f) of the INA. At the discretion of the Secretary of State, certified copies of visa records may be made available to a court which certifies that the information contained in such records is needed in a case pending before the court.

#### PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT STATEMENT

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including time required for searching existing data sources, gathering the necessary data, providing the information required, and reviewing the final collection. You do not have to provide the information unless this collection displays a currently valid OMB number. Send comments on the accuracy of this estimate of the burden and recommendations for reducing it to: U.S. Department of State, A/GIS/DIR, Washington, DC 20520.



U.S. Department of State

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR PETITION FOR SPECIAL IMMIGRANT CLASSIFICATION FOR AFGHAN SIV APPLICANTS

### You may file this petition if:

1. You are a citizen or national of Afghanistan; and
2. You were employed by or on behalf of the U.S. government or the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), or its successor, in Afghanistan after October 7, 2001, for a period of not less than one year; or
3. You are the surviving spouse or surviving unmarried child under age 21 of someone who met the criteria in 1 and 2 above.

### General Instructions for Completing Form DS-157

Please read and follow the below instructions carefully when completing Form DS-157.

This is a petition for classification as a special immigrant under section 203(b)(4) of the Immigration and Nationality Act ("INA") (8 U.S.C. 1153(b)(4)), as provided for under section 602(b)(1)(A) of the Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-8)("AAPA"). This petition is required of all applicants for a special immigrant visa ("SIV") under the AAPA.

You **must** file this petition together with the documents required to apply for Chief of Mission Approval as listed here:

<https://travel.state.gov/afghan>.

If the form does not provide sufficient space for your response, use Item 23, Additional Information. **Do not leave any fields blank.** All questions must contain an appropriate response or the processing of your petition will be delayed. **You must sign your petition to receive a final adjudication.**

### Instructions for each numbered question:

1. Enter your family name or surname as it appears in your passport or tazkera. Do not enter names that appear after d/o or s/o. If you have only one name, enter that name.
2. Enter your first name as it appears in your tazkera or passport (if any). If there is only one name, enter "FNU" (First Name Unknown) and use the single name as a last name.
3. Write your full name in Dari exactly as it appears in your tazkera or passport.
4. Check yes if you are the surviving spouse or child of a deceased principal applicant.  
\*4a-e. Enter the deceased's full name, name in native alphabet, date of birth, place of birth and tazkera.
5. Enter your clan or tribal name. If you do not have a clan or tribal name, write "None."
6. Enter any names/aliases you have used.
7. Enter your date of birth as it appears in your tazkera or passport.
8. Enter your place of birth as it appears in your tazkera or passport.
9. Enter your passport number (if any).
10. Enter all tazkera numbers you have ever used. If applicable, also enter your National Identity Card number.
11. Check the appropriate box.
12. Enter your email address and phone number.
13. Enter your current address where you are physically located.
14. Enter your father's full name as it appears in his most recent tazkera or passport.
15. Enter your mother's full name as it appears in her most recent tazkera or passport.
16. Enter the full name (as it appears on their tazkera), date of birth, place of birth, and date of marriage for your current spouse, if any. If you are unmarried enter "N/A".
17. List the full names and dates of birth of all your children under age 21 as it appears in the child's official documentation (i.e., a tazkera or birth certificate). **Only unmarried children under 21 years of age may qualify for an SIV (8 U.S.C. §1101 and Public Law 111-8 §602(b)(2)(B)).**
18. List all the countries you have visited during the past 10 years and the year of the visit (for example, China 2004, Italy 2007). If you have never traveled outside of Afghanistan, write "None."
19. List all the countries which have issued you a passport, including your current one (even if expired). If you have never been issued a passport and do not hold a current passport, write "None."
20. Check the appropriate box to note whether you have ever lost a passport or had one stolen.
21. List the requested information for the last five employers, including the current employer. If you had only one employer or no employer before the current job, you should explain that in the box. List previous employers regardless of whether they have a connection to the United States. Please explain the job and if self-employed. Please state specifically the employer's name, the job location, job title, supervisor name, supervisor email address, dates of employment, and the reason for separation. If you do not have previous supervisor's email address, enter "N/A." If you are the surviving spouse or child of a deceased principal applicant, the *requested information refers to the deceased principal applicant's employment history.*

**Instructions for each numbered question (continued):**

22. Check the appropriate box to note whether you or your deceased spouse or parent, if applying as a surviving spouse or child, have ever applied for Chief of Mission approval prior to completing this form. If so, enter the case number(s) associated with those previous application(s). If you or your deceased spouse or parent never applied before, write 'N/A.'
23. You may use this section to provide additional information if the space provided in the form is not enough. Indicate the question number you are answering in the box next to "Item Number".
24. Sign your name (by hand or typed) and date the form in the signature box.

**Processing Information**

There is no filing fee for this form.

You **must** file this form together with the documents required when applying for Chief of Mission Approval. Email all necessary documentation to:

[AfghanSIVApplication@state.gov](mailto:AfghanSIVApplication@state.gov).

**Initial Processing.** We must receive a complete and signed DS-157 petition and all documents required for Chief of Mission Approval, including all supporting documentation, as identified at <https://travel.state.gov/afghan>, before we can assess your eligibility for Chief of Mission approval and adjudicate your special immigrant petition. Failure to file all required documents may delay processing.

**Decision.** The decision on Form DS-157 involves a determination of whether you have established eligibility for classification as a special immigrant under INA section 203(b)(4), as provided for under section 602(b)(1)(A) of the AAPA. Approval of this petition means the U.S. government has determined: (1) you are a citizen or national of Afghanistan; (2) you were employed by or on behalf of the U.S. Government or the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), or its successor, in Afghanistan after October 7, 2001, for a period of not less than one year; and (3) you provided faithful and valuable service to the U.S. Government or ISAF, or its successor. The decision on Form DS-157 for surviving spouses and children of deceased principal applicants involves a determination that the principal applicant meets the above requirements and that you have a qualifying relationship as a spouse or as an unmarried child under age 21. Decisions will be made by authorized officials of the U.S. Department of State. You will be notified of the decision in writing.

**You do not need to file this form if:**

**You have not yet received a decision on your COM application and you previously filed a signed Form DS-157, Supplemental SIV Chief of Mission Application or Supplemental NIV Application, prior to July 20, 2022.** Your previously filed Form DS-157 will be deemed a PETITION FOR SPECIAL IMMIGRANT CLASSIFICATION FOR AFGHAN SIV APPLICANTS. If such individuals apply for a Special Immigrant Visa outside of the United States or apply to adjust status in the United States on the basis of Special Immigrant status, they will be deemed to have provided the information on that form in support of a petition for classification as a special immigrant under the Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2009, Section 602(b) of Pub. L. 111-8, and Section 203(b)(4) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(b)(4)) and to have agreed that the information provided on that form may be shared with other U.S. government agencies authorized to use such information for purposes including enforcement of the laws of the United States. Individuals seeking to apply for a Special Immigrant Visa outside of the United States will need to email the National Visa Center at [NVCSIV@state.gov](mailto:NVCSIV@state.gov) with their location and information on any derivatives (immediate family members) included on the application.

**You have not yet received a decision on your COM application and you previously filed an unsigned DS-157 prior to July 20, 2022.** No Form DS-157 may be approved as a petition unless signed by the applicant. Applicants located outside the United States whose previously filed Form DS-157 is missing a signature but is otherwise approvable may be granted conditional approval. Upon receipt of conditional approval, individuals seeking to apply for a Special Immigrant Visa outside of the United States will need to email the National Visa Center at [NVCSIV@state.gov](mailto:NVCSIV@state.gov) with their location and information on any derivatives (immediate family members) included on the application. Applicants who receive conditional approval must electronically sign their Form DS-157 before a consular officer at the time of the visa interview for final approval.

**Note:** Applicants located in the United States whose previously filed Form DS-157 is missing a signature must file an I-360 petition with USCIS once granted COM approval to continue special immigrant processing.

**You are outside the United States and already granted COM approval and have not yet filed a Form I-360 petition with USCIS.** Any Afghan SIV applicant outside the United States who filed a signed Form DS-157 and has received COM approval but has not yet filed a Form I-360 petition with USCIS and who wishes to apply for an SIV must email NVCSIV@state.gov to receive instructions on how to proceed with their SIV application. Such applicants will be deemed to have provided the information on form DS-157 in support of a petition for classification as a special immigrant under section 203(b)(4) of the Immigration and Nationality Act pursuant to the Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2009, Section 602(b) of Pub. L. 111-8. If the applicant's DS-157 was unsigned, approval of the petition will be conditional. The approval will be finalized when the applicant electronically signs their DS-157 petition before a consular officer at the visa interview. Applicants will need to email the National Visa Center at NVCSIV@state.gov with their location and information on any derivatives (immediate family members) included on the application.

**You are in the United States and have been granted COM approval.** Applicants currently in the United States who have already received COM approval should file an I-360 petition with USCIS to request classification as a special immigrant. Following approval of any Form I-360 petition you will need to file a Form I-485 application with USCIS to become a lawful permanent resident.

**You did not file a DS-157 and have been granted COM approval.** Applicants inside or outside the United States who did not file a DS-157 and were granted COM approval must file an I-360 petition with USCIS. Applicants who have already filed the I-360 petition with USCIS must await a decision by USCIS to continue special immigrant processing. After USCIS approves your petition, they will transfer your case to the Department of State's National Visa Center (NVC) for pre-processing. The first step in this processing is the creation of your case in our system. Once this is complete, we will send you a Welcome Letter by e-mail.



**From:** Kyiv, ACS  
**Sent:** Mon, 16 Sep 2024 06:18:24 +0000  
**To:** [REDACTED] (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Can we have an open line of communication for the Afghan soldier project  
**Attachments:** US embassy- restart Afghan project.docx

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

**From:** Kyiv, ACS <KyivACS@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 31, 2023 8:15 AM  
**To:** Kyiv PROTOCOL <KYIVPROTOCOL@state.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: Can we have an open line of communication for the Afghan soldier project

Dear ladies,

I honestly tried to handle this request myself, [REDACTED] (b)(6) must be swamped as he never answered. Will you take a look at the letter attached and see what can be done if anything?

Thank you and have a nice day,

[REDACTED] (b)(6)

---

**From:** Kyiv, ACS  
**Sent:** Monday, October 30, 2023 11:02 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED] (b)(6)@state.gov  
**Subject:** FW: Can we have an open line of communication for the Afghan soldier project

[REDACTED] (b)(6) hi,

Could you please take a look at this request and let me know what you think?

[REDACTED] (b)(5)

[REDACTED] (b)(5)

Thank you!

[REDACTED] (b)(6)

---

**From:** Ryan Routh <aid.in.ukraine@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 30, 2023 4:27 AM  
**To:** Kyiv, ACS <KyivACS@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Can we have an open line of communication for the Afghan soldier project

Dear Bridget Brink,

Attached is a letter requesting some sort of means of communication so that we can find a way to start the Afghan soldier project for Ukraine.

Can you please allocate some spokesperson to be the liaison for this project so that we can get you the accounting documents that you desire to get the soldiers to the front line. We have thousands of Afghan soldiers begging every day for the slightest bit of hope and meaning in life to be useful again and all we need to do is to give these soldiers a pathway to Ukraine.

We all want this project to work and all we need to do is talk to fix all the minor issues that are holding up this project. A simple conference call and we can resolve all of the issues.

Please help me get this started. This is a critical time and we must act.

Thanks, Ryan

Ryan Routh

International Volunteer Center

(b)(6) MSM, Signal, WhatsApp, Telegram, Viber

[FightforUkraine.com.ua](https://fightforukraine.com.ua) [Killed-in-Ukraine.com](https://killed-in-ukraine.com)

Coalition forces spend 3 trillion dollars and 15 years training 300,000 soldiers that we must use to defeat Russia.

October 29, 2023

US Embassy in Kyiv

4 Aircraft Designer St.

Kyiv, Ukraine 04112

Honorable Bridget Brink and Garrick Harmon,

I would like to respectfully ask why we cannot work one on one to pursue the Afghan soldier project?

I fully understand that your office does not need any unnecessary noise and correspondence that is not worthwhile; but I do not see how we can get these thousands of Afghan soldiers to the front lines without direct communication. Your staff has spoken with (b)(6) at great length and most recently had a meeting where he was asked to provide the execution details of the project as well as accounting of how funds would be allocated and spent and he failed to submit those documents to you. While I had hoped that he could produce these documents, if he could not, I had hoped that you would reach out to me so that I can supply what you need. I will gladly do whatever it takes to get you the information that you need from any number of Ukrainian agencies so that we can get this project done. I can be back in Ukraine at a moment's notice and arrange what you need. Because (b)(6) did not fulfill his obligation he is ashamed to give me any contact information since he dropped the ball. We have been discussing this and mailing documents and talking through Volodymyr for months so it seems only logical that we at least have an email address that we can work through to try and make this happen. When I went to Taiwan the personnel at AIT came right out and we had a meeting right then and there and discussed all the items and options without hesitation and any issues. If you can possibly assign a low level spokesman that can help with some simple emails that would be wonderful.

Currently [REDACTED] (b)(6) is negotiating with GUR and they have requested that we assemble a complete battalion of 3000 Afghan soldiers that have passports so we are working on that currently. I am sending the leaders of the Afghans to Qatar to set up an office so that we can compile this list in safety away from the Taliban and Iran. As you may know, with Reznikov and Budanov we had an agreement to bring in 230 Afghan soldiers on a trial basis to join the International Legion, with plans for another 1000 and 2500 after that, but that fell apart with leadership changes and the constant begging for money. I have since mailed a package to Rustem Umerov and [REDACTED] (b)(6) has met with Zelenskyy but no defined movement yet. With your simple partnership and encouragement I am certain that we together can iron out all of the minor issues and make this project a tremendous benefit for everyone.

**From:** [REDACTED] (b)(3); (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Tue, 18 Jul 2023 11:18:03 +0430  
**To:** AfghanSIVApplication@state.gov  
**Subject:** Fwd:  
**Attachments:** [REDACTED] (b)(3); (b)(6)

[REDACTED] (b)(3); (b)(6)

----- Forwarded message -----

[REDACTED] (b)(3); (b)(6)

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(3); (b)(6)

**From:** [REDACTED] (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Tue, 28 Mar 2023 15:42:41 +0000  
**To:** [REDACTED] (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Fw: NYT: Stolen Valor: The U.S. Volunteers in Ukraine Who Lie, Waste and Bicker

This made me sick to my stomach

**From:** GPA Press Clips <GPAPressMediaMonitor@state.gov>

**Sent:** Saturday, March 25, 2023 8:25 AM

**To:** PA Monitoring Group <PAMonitoringGroup@state.gov>

**Subject:** NYT: Stolen Valor: The U.S. Volunteers in Ukraine Who Lie, Waste and Bicker

Stolen Valor: The U.S. Volunteers in Ukraine Who Lie, Waste and Bicker

People who would not be allowed anywhere near the battlefield in a U.S.-led war are active on the Ukrainian front, with ready access to American weapons.

Justin Scheck, an international investigative reporter, and Thomas Gibbons-Neff, the Ukraine correspondent, reported this article from Ukraine and around Europe.

March 25, 2023

Updated 6:47 a.m. ET

<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/03/25/world/europe/volunteers-us-ukraine-lies.html>

They rushed to Ukraine by the thousands, many of them Americans who promised to bring military experience, money or supplies to the battleground of a righteous war. Hometown newspapers hailed their commitment, and donors backed them with millions of dollars.

Now, after a year of combat, many of these homespun groups of volunteers are fighting with themselves and undermining the war effort. Some have wasted money or stolen valor. Others have cloaked themselves in charity while also trying to profit off the war, records show.

One retired Marine lieutenant colonel from Virginia is the focus of a U.S. federal investigation into the potentially illegal export of military technology. A former Army soldier arrived in Ukraine only to turn traitor and defect to Russia. A Connecticut man who lied about his military service has posted live updates from the battlefield — including his exact location — and boasted about his easy access to American weapons. A former construction worker is hatching a plan to use fake passports to smuggle in fighters from Pakistan and Iran.

And in one of the more curious entanglements, one of the largest volunteer groups is embroiled in a power struggle involving an Ohio man who falsely claimed to have been both a U.S. Marine and a LongHorn Steakhouse assistant manager. The dispute also involves a years-old incident on Australian reality TV.

Such characters have a place in Ukraine's defense because of the arms-length role the United States has taken: The Biden administration sends weapons and money but not professional troops. That means people who would not be allowed anywhere near the battlefield in a U.S.-

led war are active on the Ukrainian front — often with unchecked access to weapons and military equipment.

Many of the volunteers who hurried to Ukraine did so selflessly and acted with heroism. Some have lost their lives. Foreigners have rescued civilians, aided the wounded and fought ferociously alongside Ukrainians. Others raised money for crucial supplies.

But in Europe's largest land war since 1945, the do-it-yourself approach does not discriminate between trained volunteers and those who lack the skills or discipline to assist effectively.

The New York Times reviewed more than 100 pages of documents from inside volunteer groups and interviewed more than 30 volunteers, fighters, fund-raisers, donors and American and Ukrainian officials. Some spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive information.

The interviews and research reveal a series of deceptions, mistakes and squabbles that have hindered the volunteer drive that began after Russia's full-scale invasion in February 2022, when President Volodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine called for help. "Every friend of Ukraine who wants to join Ukraine in defending the country, please come over," he said. "We will give you weapons."

Thousands answered the call. Some joined military groups like the International Legion, which Ukraine formed for foreign fighters. Others took roles in support or fund-raising. With Kyiv, Ukraine's capital, under attack, there was little time for vetting arrivals. So people with problematic pasts, including checkered or fabricated military records, became entrenched in the Legion and a constellation of other volunteer groups.

Asked about these problems, the Ukrainian military did not address specific issues but did say that it was on guard because Russian agents regularly tried to infiltrate volunteer groups. "We investigated such cases and handed them over to law enforcement agencies," said Andriy Cherniak, a representative for Ukrainian military intelligence.

#### 'A Million Lies'

One of the best-known Americans on the battlefield is James Vasquez. Days after the invasion, Mr. Vasquez, a Connecticut home-improvement contractor, announced that he was leaving for Ukraine. His local newspaper told the tale of a former U.S. Army staff sergeant who left behind his job and family and picked up a rifle and a rucksack on the front line.

Since then, he has posted battlefield videos online, at least once broadcasting his unit's precise location to everyone, including the opposing side. He used his story to solicit donations. "I was in Kuwait during Desert Storm, and I was in Iraq after 9/11," Mr. Vasquez said in a fund-raising video. He added, "This is a whole different animal."



Mr. Vasquez, in fact, was never deployed to Kuwait, Iraq or anywhere else, a Pentagon spokeswoman said. He specialized in fuel and electrical repairs. And he left the Army Reserve not as a sergeant as he claimed, but as a private first class, one of the Army's lowest ranks.

Still, Mr. Vasquez had easy access to weapons, including American rifles. Where did they come from? "I'm not exactly sure," Mr. Vasquez said in a text message. The rifles, he added, were "brand-new, out of the box and we have plenty." He also tweeted that he should not have to worry about international rules of war while in Ukraine.

He fought alongside Da Vinci's Wolves, a Ukrainian far-right battalion, until this past week, when The Times asked about his false military service claims. He immediately deactivated his Twitter account and said that he might leave Ukraine because the authorities had discovered that he was fighting without a required military contract.

Mr. Vasquez said he had been misrepresenting his military record for decades. He acknowledged being kicked out of the Army but would not talk publicly about why. "I had to tell a million lies to get ahead," Mr. Vasquez said in an interview. "I didn't realize it was going to come to this."

#### Public Quarrels

The International Legion, hastily formed by the Ukrainian government, spent 10 minutes or less checking each volunteer's background early in the war, one Legion official said. So a Polish fugitive who had been jailed in Ukraine for weapon violations got a position leading troops. Soldiers told The Kyiv Independent that he had misappropriated supplies, harassed women and threatened his soldiers.

Ukrainian officials initially boasted of 20,000 potential Legion volunteers, but far fewer actually enlisted. Currently, there are around 1,500 members in the organization, say people with knowledge of the Legion.

Some are experienced fighters working as part of the Defense Intelligence of Ukraine. But there have been high-profile problems. A former Army private first class, John McIntyre, was ejected from the Legion for bad behavior. Mr. McIntyre defected to Russia and recently appeared on state-run television, which said he had provided military intelligence to Moscow.

Internal documents show that the Legion is struggling. Recruitment has stagnated. The Washington-based Counter Extremism Project wrote in March that the Legion and affiliated groups "continue to feature individuals widely seen as unfit to perform their duties."

Malcolm Nance, a former Navy cryptologist and MSNBC commentator, arrived in Ukraine last year and made a plan to bring order and discipline to the Legion. Instead, he became enmeshed in the chaos.

Mr. Nance, whose television appearances have made him one of the most visible Americans supporting Ukraine, was an experienced military operator. He drafted a code of honor for the organization and, by all accounts, donated equipment.

Today, Mr. Nance is involved in a messy, distracting power struggle. Often, that plays out on Twitter, where Mr. Nance taunted one former ally as “fat” and an associate of “a verified con artist.”

He accused a pro-Ukraine fund-raising group of fraud, providing no evidence. After arguing with two Legion administrators, Mr. Nance wrote a “counterintelligence” report trying to get them fired. Central to that report is an accusation that one Legion official, Emese Abigail Fayk, fraudulently tried to buy a house on an Australian reality TV show with money she didn’t have. He labeled her “a potential Russian spy,” offering no evidence. Ms. Fayk denied the accusations and remains with the Legion.

Mr. Nance said that as a member of the Legion with an intelligence background, when he developed concerns, he “felt an obligation to report this to Ukrainian counterintelligence.”

The dispute goes to the heart of who can be trusted to speak for and raise money for the Legion.

Mr. Nance has left Ukraine but continues fund-raising with a new group of allies. One of them, Ben Lackey, is a former Legion member. He told his fellow volunteers that he was once a Marine and wrote on LinkedIn that he had most recently been an assistant manager at LongHorn Steakhouse. In fact, the Pentagon said he had no military experience (and he worked as a server, the steakhouse said).

In an interview, Mr. Lackey said that he had lied about being a U.S. Marine so he could join the Legion.

With Legion growth stalling, Ryan Routh, a former construction worker from Greensboro, N.C., is seeking recruits from among Afghan soldiers who fled the Taliban. Mr. Routh, who spent several months in Ukraine last year, said he planned to move them, in some cases illegally, from Pakistan and Iran to Ukraine. He said dozens had expressed interest.

“We can probably purchase some passports through Pakistan, since it’s such a corrupt country,” he said in an interview from Washington.

It is not clear whether he has succeeded, but one former Afghan soldier said he had been contacted and was interested in fighting if it meant leaving Iran, where he was living illegally.

Misdirected Donations

Grady Williams, a 65-year-old retired engineer with no military experience and a methamphetamine conviction from 2019, was a volunteer tour guide at Ronald Reagan's Santa Barbara ranch when he heard Mr. Zelensky's plea for volunteers.

"I shot rifles since I was 13," he said in an interview. "I had no excuse to say, 'Well, I shouldn't go.'"

He said he had flown to Poland, hitchhiked to Ukraine and taken a train to Kyiv. He bumped into two Americans in military-looking gear. "They said, 'Dude, come with us,'" he said.

The volunteers brought Mr. Williams to a base near the front and gave him a gun. Days later, he said, he was nearly blown up while fighting alongside Ukrainian soldiers from a trench near Bucha. Within a week, the military realized that he had not registered to fight and sent him back to Kyiv.

From there, he took a circuitous path that ended in raising money for volunteers from the Republic of Georgia. He raised about \$16,000, telling donors that their money would buy electric motorcycles for fighters. But the Georgians kicked him out after he got into a conflict with another volunteer. He said he had spent about \$6,900 of the contributions on down payments for motorbikes and the rest on his travel and other expenses.

Grady Williams in his garage in Santa Barbara, Calif., last month. "I shot rifles since I was 13," he said of his decision to go to Ukraine. "I had no excuse to say, 'Well, I shouldn't go.'"Credit...David Butow for The New York Times

He has since linked up with a new group, which he said had promised him command of a motorcycle unit if he raised enough money. So he moved this month to Odesa, Ukraine, he said, and expects to deliver a single motorbike soon.

Examples of wasted money in the hands of well-intentioned people are common. Mriya Aid, a group led by an active-duty Canadian lieutenant colonel, spent about \$100,000 from donors on high-tech U.S.-style night-vision devices. They ended up being less-effective Chinese models, internal documents show.

"We experienced a problem with the night vision," said Lubomyr Chabursky, a volunteer on Mriya Aid's leadership team. But he said the purchase made up only 2 percent of the group's total expenditures.

Earlier this year, the Mozart Group, which two former Marines established to help Ukraine, disbanded after one sued the other, alleging theft and harassment.

Absent Paper Trail

Last spring, a volunteer group called Ripley's Heroes said it had spent approximately \$63,000 on night-vision and thermal optics. Some of the equipment was subject to American export restrictions because, in the wrong hands, it could give enemies a battlefield advantage.

Frontline volunteers said Ripley's delivered the equipment to Ukraine without required documentation listing the actual buyers and recipients. Recently, the federal authorities began investigating the shipments, U.S. officials said.

In his defense, the group's founder, a retired U.S. Marine named Lt. Col. Hunter Ripley Rawlings IV, provided deal documents to The Times. But those records show that, just as the volunteers said, Ripley's was not disclosed to the State Department as the buyer.

Ripley's says it has raised over \$1 million, some of it thanks to the former Connecticut contractor, Mr. Vasquez, who claimed to be the group's chief strategy officer and promoted Ripley's to his online audience.

Ripley's spent about \$25,000 on remote-control reconnaissance cars last year, but they never arrived, shipping records show. Colonel Rawlings said the Polish authorities had held them up over legal concerns.

Colonel Rawlings has said that his group was awaiting American nonprofit status. But he has not revealed his spending or proof of a nonprofit application to The Times or to donors who have asked. So it is not clear where the money is going. "I believed these guys," said Shaun Stants, who said he had organized a fund-raiser in October in Pittsburgh but was never shown the financial records he asked for. "And they took me for a fool."

Corporate records in Poland and the United States show that Colonel Rawlings also started a for-profit company called Iron Forge. In an interview, he said he expected his charity and others to pay Iron Forge for transportation, meaning that donor money would be used to finance his private venture. But he said no conflict of interest existed because Iron Forge would ultimately send money back to the charities. Details are being worked out, he said.

In the days after The Times approached Mr. Vasquez and others, members of the squabbling groups — Ripley's, the Legion, the dissident Legion members and more — escalated their feud. They accused one another of misappropriating funds and lying about their credentials.

After a former ally turned on Mr. Vasquez, Mr. Nance came to his defense.

"James was NOT fake, he was troubled," Mr. Nance said on Twitter. "He did a lot for Ukraine but has challenges to face."

**From:** Kyiv, Front Office Paper  
**Sent:** Mon, 13 Nov 2023 13:12:37 +0000  
**To:** (b)(6) (Kyiv )  
**Subject:** FW: KFOP: Correspondence Tasker: 2023- 155 - the Afghan soldier project  
**Attachments:** AM - Letter for Afgan Project.docx

Best regards,

(b)(6)

Special Assistant

U.S. Embassy Kyiv


Signal/Cell: (b)(6)

Desk: EXT (b)(6)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

---

**From:** (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 13, 2023 3:00 PM  
**To:** Kyiv, Front Office Paper <KyivFrontOfficePaper@state.gov>  
**Cc:** (b)(6) (Kyiv) (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6) (Kyiv) (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6) (Kyiv) (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** KFOP: Correspondence Tasker: 2023- 155 - the Afghan soldier project

KFOP: please see attached our response on tasker 2023-155  AM - Letter for Afgan Project.docx

Thanks,

(b)(6)

Political-Military Unit Chief

U.S. Embassy Kyiv, Department of State

Mobile, Signal, WhatsApp: (b)(6)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

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**From:** Kyiv, Front Office Paper <KyivFrontOfficePaper@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 31, 2023 2:41 PM  
**To:** (b)(6) (Kyiv) (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6) (Kyiv) (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6) (Kyiv) (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Cc:** Kyiv PROTOCOL <KYIVPROTOCOL@state.gov>

**Subject:** Correspondence Tasker: 2023- 155 - the Afghan soldier project

**Importance:** Low

DUE DATE: Tuesday, November 7, 2023

EXECUTIVE TASKERS:

[ACCESS TASK HERE](#)

**This link contains correspondence received by the Ambassador or DCM, and is being tasked for your action or situational awareness.**

**Direct Response:** As you deem appropriate, please respond directly from your office to the individual, on behalf of the Ambassador or DCM.

Please update Executive Office and Protocol ([Kyiv\\_EXEC@state.gov](mailto:Kyiv_EXEC@state.gov) (CC [KyivProtocol@state.gov](mailto:KyivProtocol@state.gov))) when a response has been sent, so we can mark the tasking as completed.

**Draft Text for Ambassador:** If you determine a response sent directly from the Ambassador is required, please send draft text to [KyivFrontOfficePaper@state.gov](mailto:KyivFrontOfficePaper@state.gov), using designated style guide and formats.

**Info Only:** Some correspondence is passed only for your awareness, noted in the comments section as for “your information only”—this does NOT require any response from you.

If you feel this tasking is incorrect or have additional questions, please email Protocol Assistants at [KyivProtocol@state.gov](mailto:KyivProtocol@state.gov).

Thank you,

Embassy Kyiv Front Office Staff



*Embassy of the United States of America  
Kyiv, Ukraine*

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

November 13, 2023

**ACTION MEMO FOR AMBASSADOR BRINK**

FROM: POL – (b)(6)

THROUGH: A/DCM – Jim Hope

SUBJECT: ~~(SBU)~~ Correspondence Tasker: 2023- 155 - the Afghan soldier project

**Background**

~~(SBU)~~

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

~~(SBU)~~

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

-2-

(SBU) [REDACTED] (b)(5)  
[REDACTED] (b)(5)

(SBU) Recommendation: [REDACTED] (b)(5)

Decision: ☐ Approve ☐ Disapprove ☐ Discuss

(SBU) Recommendation: [REDACTED] (b)(5)  
[REDACTED] (b)(5)

Decision: ☐ Approve ☐ Disapprove ☐ Discuss

Attachments:

Tab 1 – Letter from Ryan Routh of the International Volunteer Corps

Tab 2 – Draft Response Letter for Ambassador's Consideration

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED



~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

-3-

## CLEARANCES

Drafted: POL:  (b)(6)

Approved: A/DCM: DSchlaefer

Cleared:

POL:  (b)(6) (ok)

POL:  (b)(6) (ok)

POL:  (b)(6) (ok)

DAO:  (b)(6) (ok)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

-4-

## **TAB 1 – Incoming Correspondence**

October 29, 2023

US Embassy in Kyiv

4 Aircraft Designer St.

Kyiv, Ukraine 04112

Honorable Bridget Brink and Garrick Harmon,

I would like to respectfully ask why we cannot work one on one to pursue the Afghan soldier project?

I fully understand that your office does not need any unnecessary noise and correspondence that is not worthwhile; but I do not see how we can get these thousands of Afghan soldiers to the front lines without direct communication. Your staff has spoken with [REDACTED] (b)(6) at great length and most recently had a meeting where he was asked to provide the execution details of the project as well as accounting of how funds would be allocated and spent and he failed to submit those documents to you. While I had hoped that he could produce these documents, if he could not, I had hoped that you would reach out to me so that I can supply what you need. I will gladly do whatever it takes to get you the information that you need from any number of Ukrainian agencies so that we can get this project done. I can be back in Ukraine at a moment's notice and arrange what you need. Because [REDACTED] (b)(6) did not fulfill his obligation he is ashamed to give me any contact information since he dropped the ball. We have been discussing this and mailing documents and talking through [REDACTED] (b)(6) for months so it seems only logical that we at least have an email address that we can work through to try and make this happen. When I went to Taiwan the personnel at AIT came right out and we had a meeting right then and there and

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-5-

discussed all the items and options without hesitation and any issues. If you can possibly assign a low level spokesman that can help with some simple emails that would be wonderful.

Currently [REDACTED] (b)(6) is negotiating with GUR and they have requested that we assemble a complete battalion of 3000 Afghan soldiers that have passports so we are working on that currently. I am sending the leaders of the Afghans to Qatar to set up an office so that we can compile this list in safety away from the Taliban and Iran. As you may know, with Reznikov and Budanov we had an agreement to bring in 230 Afghan soldiers on a trial basis to join the International Legion, with plans for another 1000 and 2500 after that, but that fell apart with leadership changes and the constant begging for money. I have since mailed a package to Rustem Umerov and [REDACTED] (b)(6) has met with Zelenskyy but no defined movement yet. With your simple partnership and encouragement I am certain that we together can iron out all of the minor issues and make this project a tremendous benefit for everyone.

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-6-

**TAB 2 – Draft Reply**

Kyiv, Ukraine  
November 13, 2023

Mr. Ryan Routh  
[aid.in.ukraine@gmail.com](mailto:aid.in.ukraine@gmail.com)  
International Volunteer Center

(b)(6)

FightforUkraine.com.ua

Dear Mr. Routh:

(b)(5)

Sincerely,

Bridget Brink

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

**From:** [REDACTED] (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Mon, 16 Sep 2024 21:54:31 +0000  
**To:** EUR-Ukraine Desk-DL  
**Subject:** FW: How Ukraine could get caught in assassination attempt crossfire

First story is of interest.

---

**From:** POLITICO's National Security Daily <nationalsecuritydaily@email.politico.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 16, 2024 4:09 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED] (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** How Ukraine could get caught in assassination attempt crossfire

Sep 16, 2024

[View in browser](#)

BY **ROBBIE GRAMER** AND **ERIC BAZAIL-EIMIL**

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy quickly issued his own condemnation of the attempt on former President Donald Trump's life. | Luca Bruno/AP

*With help from Daniel Lippman*

[Subscribe here](#) | [Email Robbie](#) | [Email Eric](#)

Some of Ukraine's strongest supporters fear the potential fallout of having Kyiv falsely linked to this weekend's assassination attempt against former President **DONALD TRUMP**.

The Ukrainian government has swiftly denied any links with a suspected gunman who was accused of attempting to assassinate Trump on Sunday. The details surrounding the latest assassination attempt, however, contain all the ingredients for a disinformation powder keg that Russia could try to exploit, current and former U.S. officials and other security experts say.

Some fear anti-Ukraine factions will seize on the actions and social media posts of the alleged would-be assassin, **RYAN WESLEY**

**ROUTH**, to muddy the waters of his links to the Ukrainian government.

“Routh’s self-declared connections to and support of Ukraine are exaggerated, and need to be seen within the wider picture of a man who is clearly unwell and delusional,” said **SHELBY MAGID**, an expert on U.S.-Ukraine relations at the Atlantic Council think tank.

“Unfortunately for Ukraine, the combination of Routh’s own exaggeration and Russian propaganda is dangerous.”

Routh sought to reinvent himself as a freedom fighter for Ukraine after a series of run-ins with U.S. law enforcement, traveling to Ukraine in 2022 with a plan to help fight against Russian forces and voicing support for Ukraine in dozens of social media posts that year.

Ukraine’s military said today that it rejected offers by Routh to aid their war effort and characterized his past offers of support as “delusional.” And Ukrainian President **VOLODYMYR ZELENSKY** quickly issued his own condemnation of the attempt on Trump’s life.

But the Kremlin, never one to let a crisis go to waste, was quick to spin the news and fan the flames of a conspiracy. “I wonder what would happen if it turned out that the failed new Trump shooter Routh, who recruited mercenaries for the Ukrainian army, was himself hired by the neo-nazi regime in Kiev for this assassination attempt?” **DMITRY MEDVEDEV**, deputy chair of Russia’s Security Council and one of the country’s loudest provocateurs, claimed on X. It’s unclear whether this narrative will gain any traction beyond the bubble of Russia’s disinformation sphere, however.

Experts stressed to NatSec Daily that while Routh’s views on the war and time in Ukraine are ripe for a disinformation campaign, they’re more immediately worried about what the attempted assassination says about the extent to which political violence has entered the 2024

campaign cycle, with the second attempt on Trump's life in just two months.

"This is worrying for a whole host of reasons for us here in the U.S., though I don't think the U.S.-Ukraine relationship is so fragile that disinfo on this would move the needle," said **JIM TOWNSEND**, a former Pentagon official now affiliated with the Center for a New American Security think tank.

The overriding fear among national security experts is that the second Trump assassination attempt could trigger more election violence ahead of hotly contested presidential elections.

Washington's closest allies and partners abroad are issuing their own condemnation of the assassination attempt, though they didn't explicitly voice their concern about whether it would lead to more violence. "Political violence must never undermine the American people's right to freely and democratically choose their path," said Israeli Foreign Minister ISRAEL KATZ.

On the campaign trail, Vice President **KAMALA HARRIS** has a similar warning. "We all must do our part to ensure that this incident does not lead to more violence," she said in a statement.

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**THE INBOX**

**LTG'S SHARP WORDS:** U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations **LINDA THOMAS-GREENFIELD** issued a sharp call today for Israel to reform its internal policies for avoiding strikes against aid operators in conflict zones.

Speaking at a Security Council briefing in New York today, Thomas-Greenfield said "there is no basis – absolutely none – for its forces to be opening fire on clearly marked U.N. vehicles, as recently occurred on numerous occasions." Those comments come days after Israeli troops encircled and fired on a convoy of U.N. vehicles in Gaza.

"The IDF is a professional military and knows well how to ensure that incidents such as these do not happen," she continued, demanding "fundamental changes in the way the IDF operates."

The comments are a particularly pointed rebuke from a U.S. official. Typically, the Biden administration has refrained from directly calling on Israel to make large-scale changes to its internal policies, even as they have condemned strikes and attacks that have killed or injured aid workers in the territory.

Thomas-Greenfield's comments come as a cease-fire and hostage release deal between Israel and Hamas remains elusive and Israel continues strikes against civilian targets in the Gaza Strip, regularly killing aid workers and provoking international outcry in the process.

**STOLTY'S NOT SWEATING:** Add outgoing NATO Secretary-General **JENS STOLTENBERG** to the list of Western leaders shrugging at Russian threats.

In an interview with Foreign Policy's **RAVI AGRAWAL** today, the NATO chief rejected Russian leader **VLADIMIR PUTIN**'s arguments



that reducing restrictions on Ukraine's use of donated weapons would constitute an expansion in the conflict.

"We have the right to support Ukraine without becoming a party to the conflict," Stoltenberg said. He added that Iran and North Korea are providing material support to Russia and "we don't regard Iran or North Korea party to the conflict. So this is not correct when President Putin says that we will become party to the conflict."

The Norwegian diplomat, who will step down from his post in October, also defended the alliance's approach to Ukraine's membership, noting that not every member state in the alliance is ready to welcome Kyiv in. "There cannot be an invitation for Ukraine until we have all allies agree. It requires consensus, and we don't have that yet," he said. Stoltenberg said, however, that Ukraine is integrating rapidly into NATO operations and continues to make progress towards membership.

**IRAN'S MISSILE MESSAGES:** Iranian President **MASOUD PEZESHKIAN** denied providing Yemen's Houthi missiles with the weapons used to strike central Israel over the weekend, per Reuters' **PARISA HAFEZI** and **ELWELY ELWELLY**. In a televised press conference, Pezeshkian also defended Tehran's missile programs, saying Iran needs the deterrence they provide and cannot abandon missile development so long as Israel is able to "drop missiles on Gaza every day."

**IT'S MONDAY.** Thanks for tuning in to NatSec Daily! This space is reserved for the top U.S. and foreign officials, the lawmakers, the lobbyists, the experts and the people like you who care about how the natsec sausage gets made. Aim your tips and comments at [rgramer@politico.com](mailto:rgramer@politico.com) and [ebazail@politico.com](mailto:ebazail@politico.com), and follow Robbie and Eric on X [@RobbieGramer](https://twitter.com/RobbieGramer) and [@ebazaileimil](https://twitter.com/ebazaileimil).

While you're at it, follow the rest of POLITICO's national security team: [@nahaltoosi](#), [@PhelimKine](#), [@connorobrienNH](#), [@paulmcleary](#), [@magmill95](#), [@johnnysaks130](#), [@ErinBanco](#), [@reporterjoe](#), and [@JGedeon1](#)

**TIKTOK'S DAY IN COURT:** Embattled social-media juggernaut TikTok and its parent company ByteDance faced off against the Department of Justice today in federal court, as the social media platform and its allies challenge a law that could see the popular app banned in the United States.

As our own **CHRISTINE MUI** previewed this morning, the panel of three judges is seen as favorable to the government. And she adds that even after Monday's arguments, it will likely still be difficult to predict the outcome of the case, as the government's security claims are supported by classified document submissions from the Department of Justice that won't be discussed in open court.

The case comes as both the Harris and Trump campaigns have embraced posting on TikTok and the platform has only gained reach during the election, defying early predictions that the bill, which would require the app to be sold to an American owner or risk a ban on U.S. app stores, would quash the app.

#### ON THE HILL

**FIRST IN NATSEC DAILY – POPPING RUSSIA'S BALLOONING HELIUM INDUSTRY:** Two senators and more than a dozen House members from both parties have written letters to the Biden administration asking it to sanction the import and distribution of helium from Russia to try to slow the growth of the country's efforts to become a global helium supplier, our own **DANIEL LIPPMAN** writes in.

The European Union recently sanctioned Russia's helium sector, arguing that it was using the revenue from helium sales to fund its war effort in Ukraine. The Congressmembers want the U.S. to follow suit and curb Russia's efforts to develop a market for the critical gas, which

is used to make everything from semiconductors to MRI machines and military equipment.

The letter from the House members was addressed to Secretary of State **ANTONY BLINKEN**, Treasury Secretary **JANET YELLEN** and Commerce Secretary **GINA RAIMONDO** while the Senate letter went to President Biden.

“Russia hopes to gain a foothold in a growing global helium market and will likely be able to do so unless the United States and our allies curb their nefarious campaign with appropriate sanctions,”

Pennsylvania Democratic Sens. **BOB CASEY** and **JOHN FETTERMAN** wrote in their letter. “Preventing access to the most developed helium market will serve as an early indication that the global market does not welcome Russia’s war financing efforts or its other destabilizing activities around the globe.”

A Treasury Department spokesperson declined to comment. Spokespeople from the NSC and the departments of State and Commerce didn’t respond to requests for comment.

## BROADSIDES

**WASHINGTON’S SANCTIONS MONDAY:** Policymakers in Washington issued two packages of sanctions to start the week.

As our own **JOHN SAKELLARIADIS** reports (for Pros!), the Treasury Department unveiled a new round of sanctions against entities and individuals tied to the Intellexa Consortium, a shadowy European spyware vendor that manufactures Predator mobile surveillance technology. Treasury says that the company has abetted human rights abuses, allowing governments to spy on journalists, dissidents and opposition leaders around the world.

Meanwhile, the State Department announced new sanctions against Georgian government officials and members of an extremist group involved in the passage of a controversial foreign agent law and the suppression of massive protests in the Caucasus country. In a statement, State Department spokesperson **MATTHEW MILLER** said that the visa restrictions and personal sanctions released today reflect Washington's concern "about human rights abuses and anti-democratic actions in Georgia." Miller added that "we will continue to consider additional actions in response."

#### TRANSITIONS

— **LESLIE SHEDD**, communications director and senior adviser for Republicans on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, will leave the committee on Oct. 1. **EMILY CASSIL**, who has served as Rep. **MICHAEL McCAUL** (R-Texas)'s personal office communications director, takes over as the committee's communications director today.

— **STEPHANIE SUTTON** will serve as acting assistant secretary for the Bureau of Global Public Affairs, NatSec Daily has learned. Sutton previously served as chief of staff to former Undersecretary of State for public diplomacy and public affairs **LIZ ALLEN** and chief of staff in the Bureau of International Information Programs.

— The National Counterterrorism Center is celebrating its 20th anniversary. NCTC acting director **BRETT HOLMGREN** said today that the agency, created in 2004 to unify counterterrorism efforts in the U.S. government following the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, is modernizing its efforts to keep Americans safe by exploring the use of artificial intelligence technologies and upgrading watchlisting and vetting tools.

#### WHAT TO READ

- **EVA HARTOG, POLITICO:** When freedom means exile: Inside the Russian prisoner swap
- **HAGAI EL-AD, The New York Times:** One issue on which Israeli extremists are mainstream
- **Le Monde:** Syria's youth is tempted to leave

#### TOMORROW TODAY

- **Henry L. Stimson Center, 9 a.m.:** Strategy, security, and diplomacy in the Indo-Pacific
- **Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, 10 a.m.:** Ensuring a trustworthy government: Examining the national security risks of replacing nonpartisan civil servants with political appointees
- **Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft, 10 a.m.:** A discussion on "key aspects of the international relations and policy of South Africa's new Government of National Unity"
- **Arms Control Association, 10 a.m.:** Disarmament summits to reduce nuclear dangers
- **Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 11:30 a.m.:** Russia's war against Ukraine: Where are we headed?
- **National Endowment for Democracy, 2:30 p.m.:** Set them free: Recognizing VLADIMIR KARA-MURZA and prisoners of the Kremlin
- **Brookings Institution's Center for Asia Policy Studies, 3 p.m.:** Alliances and partnerships in Asia and the 2024 U.S. elections

*Thanks to our editor, Heidi Vogt, who should also be prevented from gaining too much influence in the global helium market.*

*Thanks to our producer, Gregory Svirnovskiy, an effective steward of global helium reserves.*

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**From:** [REDACTED] (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Mon, 16 Sep 2024 15:49:28 +0000  
**To:** [REDACTED] (b)(6) (San Jose)  
**Subject:** FW: Embassy San Jose Daily Press Summary - September 13-16, 2024  
**Attachments:** NYT How a Tourist Paradise Became a Drug-Trafficking Magnet.pdf, NYT Front Page Sunday, September 15.pdf

Just in case you didn't get this from the country team distro...

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**From:** [REDACTED] (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 16, 2024 9:28 AM  
**To:** San Jose Country Team Members <SanJoseCountryTeamMembers@state.gov>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] (b)(6) (San Jose) [REDACTED] (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: Embassy San Jose Daily Press Summary - September 13-16, 2024

Colleagues,

For those of you who do not have access to the NY Times, I've attached here 1) a PDF version of the story and 2) a PDF copy of the Sunday front page so that you can see where this story appears.

We can discuss local reporting on the matter during Senior Staff, but I thought you'd appreciate seeing this first.

FYSA: You can gain free access to the NY Times (and many other periodicals) through the State Department's Ralph Bunche Library. You can bookmark [https://usdos.sharepoint.com/sites/Prague/Topics/Periodicals Online/default.aspx](https://usdos.sharepoint.com/sites/Prague/Topics/Periodicals%20Online/default.aspx) for future reference.

[REDACTED] (b)(6)

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**From:** [REDACTED] (b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 16, 2024 9:20 AM  
**Subject:** Embassy San Jose Daily Press Summary - September 13-16, 2024

## **Costa Rica Daily Media Summary**

### **Public Diplomacy Section**

#### **U.S. Embassy San Jose**

**(For internal USG use only)**

**Friday, September 13; Saturday, September 14;**

**Sunday, September 15; Monday, September 16, 2024**

### **Top Stories**

#### **The New York Times Details Penetration of Organized Crime in Costa Rica:**

The New York Times article "How a Tourist Paradise Became a Drug-Trafficking Magnet" (Sunday, September 15) points out that although Costa Rica attracts many tourists, drug traffickers may

be taking advantage of the forests to evade authorities. The article also highlights the emerging threat of fentanyl. In November 2023, local police and the U.S. DEA dismantled Costa Rica's first fentanyl lab. Many of the confiscated fentanyl pills were destined

for the U.S. and Europe, according to a purportedly leaked U.S. Embassy cable from San José.

The U.S. newspaper states that in 2020, Costa Rica surpassed Mexico as the world's main transshipment point for cocaine destined for the United States, Europe. Mexico

regained the top position last year, but Costa Rica remains close behind. Costa Rican President Rodrigo Chaves acknowledged the infiltration of drug trafficking in the country, responding to the article by highlighting his administration's efforts, such as

installing mobile scanners and securing donations from the U.S. for advanced scanners, to combat smuggling. He asserted that his government has taken the strongest actions in the region to address the issue and emphasized the need to continue combating organized

crime and hired assassins. President Chaves reiterated that the U.S. government will soon donate ultramodern scanners to help secure Costa Rica's ports and borders. He praised the collaboration with U.S. authorities, including Ambassador Cynthia Telles and General Richardson, who, he stated, have commended Costa Rica for its efforts. Chaves reaffirmed the country's commitment to maintaining strict security measures. [La](#)

[Nacion](#)

[El](#)

[Observador](#)

[Diario](#)

[Extra](#)

[Diario](#)

[Extra](#)

[Radio](#)

[Columbia](#)

[Channel](#)

[7 Channel](#)

[6 The](#)

[New York Times](#)

[La](#)

[Nacion](#)

[CR](#)

[Hoy](#)

[Diario](#)

[Extra](#)

[CRHoy](#)

### **Costa Rica Competes with Mexico for Top Spot in Cocaine Transshipment:**

Costa Rica is competing with Mexico as a key transshipment point for cocaine to the U.S. and Europe. Purportedly leaked U.S. State Department cables reveal that Costa Rica surpassed Mexico

as the world's main transshipment point from 2020 to 2023 and remains close behind Mexico. Costa Rica has emerged as a primary transit route for cocaine from South America, leading to increased crime and corruption related to drug trafficking. This information is part of the U.S.-Costa Rica Bilateral Relations Fact Sheet issued by the State Department's Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs.

[La](#)

[Nacion](#)

## **Embassy in the News**

### **Dengue Epidemic: How Climate Change and Urbanization Are Fueling Its Spread:**

The dengue epidemic in Costa Rica is worsening due to climate change and rapid urbanization, according to climate scientist Rusty Low. Low, from NASA's Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE) program, describes mosquitoes as "harbingers" of climate change, highlighting how changes in temperature and rainfall create ideal conditions for mosquito proliferation.

La

Nacion (NOTE: the article incorrectly translated "harbinger" as "avatar" but it contains video of Dr. Low's remarks.)

(b)(5)

## **Costa Rican Politics**

### **TSE Calls to Preserve Free Voting Against Totalitarianism:**

During the 75th anniversary celebration of Costa Rica's Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE), President Eugenia María Zamora emphasized the importance of protecting free voting as the foundation

of democracy and human rights. She warned against underestimating democratic institutions, citing historical examples of totalitarian threats. Zamora highlighted the role of independent electoral bodies in preserving democracy and called for vigilance to maintain these principles amid current challenges. La

Nacion

CRHoy

### **Chaves Sees the Comptroller as the 'Devil of Corruption,' Calls for an Exorcism:**

During a speech on Friday afternoon at the inauguration of an EBAIS (Basic Comprehensive Health Care Clinic) in La Pitahaya, Cartago, President Rodrigo Chaves criticized the Comptroller General's

Office, likening it to the "devil of corruption" and calling for an "exorcism with holy water and votes." He expressed frustration with the institution's control over public spending and project approvals, arguing that its actions often hinder progress. Chaves called for changes to reduce what he sees as excessive bureaucracy and to enable more efficient government operations.

Semanario

Universidad

### **Cartago Legislators Censure Chaves's Hate Speech:**

Opposition legislators from Cartago condemned President Rodrigo Chaves for spreading "hate speech and lies" during his speech in Cartago, marking 203 years of independence. They criticized

Chaves for questioning the new Cartago hospital's construction site, despite it already having all necessary approvals. The deputies argued that Chaves used the event to mislead the public and sow division instead of proposing solutions. They also highlighted their efforts to address healthcare and infrastructure issues in Cartago, accusing the government of destabilizing the Costa Rican Social Security Fund (CCSS) and halting infrastructure projects.

CRHoy

El

Observador

Diario

Extra

Radio

Columbia

### **IPLEX to Chaves: Journalists Filled with Anger and Alarm Over Attacks:**

The Institute of Press and Freedom of Expression (IPLEX) condemned President Rodrigo Chaves for frequent verbal attacks and obstruction against journalists from independent media. IPLEX expressed

concern over behaviors that undermine press freedom and democratic values. The most recent incident involved denying journalists the right to follow-up questions and mocking them publicly. IPLEX demands an end to any attempts to silence the press and urges the president to uphold the rights to freedom of expression and journalism without fear of intimidation or retaliation.

CRHoy

DelfinoCR

### **Pilar Cisneros Asks Deputies to Slow Down Approval of Security Laws:**

Ruling party Legislator Pilar Cisneros asked legislators to slow down the approval process of security laws, concerned that the fast pace could affect the quality of legislation. The Security and Drug Trafficking Commission is tasked with evaluating and processing these laws, part of a security agenda agreed upon by the Presidency, the Judicial Branch, and the Legislative Assembly, along with other political proposals. This follows President Chaves's criticism on August 7, accusing the Assembly of "absolute inoperability."

La

Nacion

#### **Rodrigo Arias Discharged After Hospitalization for Pneumonia:**

Rodrigo Arias Sánchez, President of Costa Rica's Legislative Assembly, was discharged from the hospital after a 10-day stay due to bacterial pneumonia. Arias, who is 78 years old, will continue his recovery at home. This is his second hospitalization this year, following a previous stay in June for severe influenza. Arias and his family expressed gratitude for the support received during his illness.

La

Nacion

El

Observador

## **Foreign Policy**

#### **United States Commends Costa Rica for 'Secure Telecommunications' Policies in Independence Celebration:**

The United States commended Costa Rica for its leadership in promoting secure telecommunications, cybersecurity, and sustainable economic development in a message celebrating its Independence

Day. U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken emphasized the importance of maintaining a strong democratic framework and independent institutions amid concerns over organized crime and corruption. The U.S. praised Costa Rica's efforts in fostering economic ties and technological advancement, underscoring the need to safeguard national stability through robust governance.

El

Observador

**Ortega Congratulates Chaves on Costa Rica's Independence:**

Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega sent a message congratulating Costa Rican President Rodrigo Chaves on the country's Independence Day. Ortega expressed wishes for continued peace, prosperity,

and progress for the Costa Rican people. [Diario](#)

[Extra](#)

**Donald Trump Is Safe After Shooting at His Resort:**

Former U.S. President Donald Trump was confirmed safe following a shooting incident at one of his resorts in Florida. The shooting occurred near the entrance of the property, prompting a security response. No injuries to Trump or his family were reported, and local authorities are investigating the incident.

[La](#)

[Nacion](#)

[Amelia](#)

[Rueda](#)

[Semanario](#)

[Universidad](#)

**Spain Rejects Accusations of Attempting a Coup in Venezuela:** Three U.S. citizens, two Spaniards, and a Czech citizen were detained in Venezuela for allegedly being involved in a plan to 'destabilize' and incite 'violent actions' in the country, announced Interior Minister Diosdado Cabello on Saturday. Spain dismissed accusations by the Venezuelan government that it is involved in a plot to overthrow President Nicolás Maduro. The Spanish Foreign Ministry emphasized that its diplomatic actions are based on supporting democratic principles and human rights, not interfering in Venezuela's internal affairs. [La](#)

[Nacion](#)

[La](#)

[Nacion](#)

**Human Rights Watch: Maduro Has a History of Widespread Abuses, It's Time for Justice:**

Human Rights Watch condemned Nicolás Maduro's record of human rights abuses and urged the International Criminal Court to act. The context reflects a broader trend in Latin America, where

countries like Nicaragua, Venezuela, and Cuba are no longer democracies, and authoritarian governments are rising in El Salvador, Peru, and Mexico. These leaders often justify their actions under the guise of security, eroding democratic institutions by attacking judicial bodies, the press, and critics to consolidate power. [La](#)

Nacion**Costa Rica, Ecuador, and the Dominican Republic Urge IACHR to Take Measures for Nicaraguan Opposition:**

Costa Rica, Ecuador, and the Dominican Republic condemned Nicaragua's decision to revoke the nationality and seize the property of 135 opposition members sent to Guatemala. They urged Nicaragua

to restore citizens' rights, citing the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states that no one should be arbitrarily deprived of nationality.

AmeliaRueda**Honduran Eco-Activist Juan López Murdered in Shocking Attack:**

Honduran eco-activist Juan López was murdered in a shocking attack. The environmentalist had recently called for the resignation of officials in Tocoa, who belong to the Libre party, after they appeared in a video negotiating bribes with drug traffickers in 2013, sparking a scandal in the country. Honduras is one of the deadliest countries for environmental activists in the world, according to the NGO Global Witness.

TicoTimes**OpEd. Haitian Pain:**

The article, written by La Nacion director Armando González, discusses the historical suffering of Haiti, highlighting the country's struggle for independence, followed by an immense financial burden imposed by France for "compensation" to former slaveholders. This debt left Haiti in deep poverty, exacerbated by subsequent U.S. exploitation and occupation. The piece reflects on the ongoing challenges faced by Haitians, linking them to current migration issues and calling for greater empathy and understanding. La

Nacion**OpEd. Editorial: Ortega's Repressive Tentacles:**

The editorial criticizes Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega's escalating repression, targeting political opponents, the media, and civil society. It condemns Ortega's strategies to maintain power, including stripping dissidents of nationality and confiscating property. The UN experts' report highlights a severe "pattern of cross-border violations," such as "guilt by association," where families of exiled dissidents in Nicaragua face harassment and persecution. La



Nacion

## **Security and Justice**

### **OIJ Warns of Unequal Fight Against Criminal Gangs Due to Laws Limiting Investments:**

Randall Zúñiga, director of Costa Rica's Judicial Investigation Agency (OIJ), warns of an "unequal fight" against well-funded criminal groups due to legal restrictions and limited resources.

He criticizes the Fiscal Rule and the Public Employment Framework Law, which hinder the OIJ's ability to invest in equipment and retain personnel, as over 400 specialists have left since 2017. Zúñiga supports a legislative proposal to exempt the judiciary

from these laws, arguing that delays in reforms weaken the agency's capacity to combat crime effectively.

CRHoy

### **2024 Sees Slight Drop in Homicides, Narco War Continues:**

Costa Rica is projected to end 2024 with a slight reduction in homicides compared to the previous year, with an estimated 864 cases versus 907 in 2023. However, the violence associated with

the ongoing narco war remains a serious concern. Public confidence in the government's ability to resolve the security crisis is low, with only 30 percent expressing confidence.

La

Republica

### **Health Ministry: Ayahuasca Clinics Operate Without Permits:**

Costa Rica's Health Ministry confirmed that clinics offering ayahuasca and iboga for addiction treatment are operating without authorization, selling retreats for \$3,500 to \$6,000 per person.

These retreats are marketed online, despite risks like psychosis and cardiac arrest. In April 2014, a Norwegian woman died at a center in Liberia, and on August 5, 2024, a U.S. citizen died in Paquera, Puntarenas, after participating in an iboga therapy.

La

Nacion

### **Possible 'Criminal Intent' Suspected in Water Contamination Across 3 Cantons:**

The Costa Rican Institute of Aqueducts and Sewers (AyA) suspects possible criminal intent in the contamination of a water source at the Guadalupe purification plant, affecting Moravia, Goicoechea, and Tibás for two days. The incident has been reported to the Judicial Investigation Agency (OIJ). AyA's president, Juan Manuel Quesada, confirmed hydrocarbon contamination, and investigations are underway. The plant's operation is expected to resume after tests on Sunday indicated no remaining hydrocarbons. [CRHoy](#)

## **Economy and Finance**

### **Central Bank Head Links Dollar Surplus to Investment, Not Illicit Activities:**

**No Evidence That Amount of Dollars Is Due to Illicit Businesses:** Róger Madrigal, President of the Central Bank of Costa Rica (BCCR), stated there is no evidence that the large amount of dollars in the economy is linked to criminal activities or money laundering.

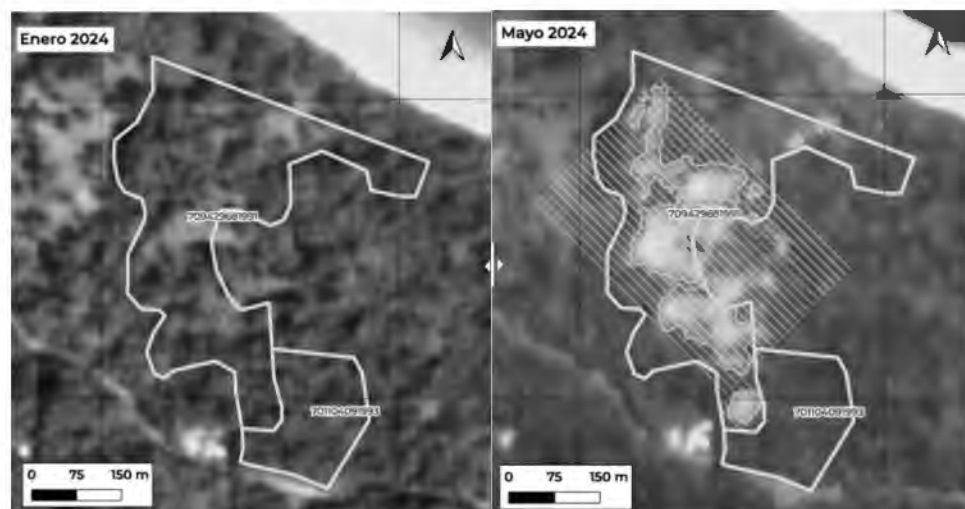
Instead, he attributes it to strong foreign direct investment, export growth, and positive tourism results. He emphasized that exchange rate fluctuations are market-driven, not politically motivated. Madrigal, whose term ends in 2027, faces criticism for his policies aimed at maintaining monetary stability. [Diario Extra](#)

## **Environment, Science, Technology, Health, and Education**

### **Satellite Images Show Extent of Logging on Gandoca-Manzanillo:**

Satellite images from January to May 2024 reveal a significant reduction in forest cover on two properties owned by businessman Allan Pacheco Dent in Gandoca-Manzanillo, where the Environmental

Prosecutor suspects illegal logging permits were granted. In four months, 3.5 hectares of forest were lost, equivalent to 8.6 soccer fields. These properties are within a protected area, where deforestation is prohibited under Costa Rican law, raising concerns about unauthorized logging activities. [La Nación](#)



### **MINAE States That Inconsistencies in Wetlands Regulations Lead to Legal Uncertainty:**

The Costa Rican Ministry of Environment and Energy (MINAE) has highlighted inconsistencies in national wetland regulations, warning that these gaps create legal uncertainty. MINAE points out that the lack of clear guidelines and definitions regarding wetland protections complicates enforcement and leaves room for legal disputes. The ministry calls for clearer and more consistent legislation to safeguard these critical ecosystems and ensure compliance with environmental laws. [Semanario Universidad](#)

### **Respiratory Viruses Cause 145 Percent Occupancy at Children's Hospital: Costa**

Rica's Children's National Hospital is at 145 percent capacity due to a rise in respiratory virus cases, including respiratory syncytial virus, metapneumovirus, rhinovirus, influenza, and COVID-19. The Ministry of Health anticipates the situation could last for another twelve to sixteen weeks and urges preventive measures like vaccination, handwashing, and avoiding crowds to reduce the spread.

[La](#)

[Nacion](#)

[Radio](#)

[Monumental](#)

### **Costa Rica Reaches 29 Cases of Screwworm Myiasis:**

Costa Rica has reported 29 cases of myiasis caused by screwworms, mainly affecting indigenous communities in Talamanca, according to the Ministry of Health. The government is enhancing efforts

to control the outbreak through increased surveillance, treatment, and public awareness campaigns. The disease, involving parasitic larvae infecting wounds, poses a significant health risk, particularly in rural areas. Authorities urge citizens to take precautions and seek medical care for any suspicious wounds. E|  
Observador

#### **Finance Minister Acosta on FEES: 'University Education Is Not Human Capital:**

Finance Minister **Nogui Acosta** argued that public funding for university education may not directly contribute to human capital, sparking controversy among legislators. José Joaquín Hernández of the National Liberation Party (PLN) suggested that behind these cuts, there may be interests in seeing public education fail to favor private education. The debate highlights tensions over education funding priorities under the Special Fund for Higher Education (FEES) and the broader role of education in national development.

Semanario

Universidad

CRHoy

### **Migration**

**Panamanian Police Kill Suspected Migrant Robbers in the Darien Jungle:** Panamanian police officers shot and killed three suspected robbers accused of targeting migrants crossing the dangerous Darien jungle. The suspects, who reportedly belonged to a criminal group that preyed on migrants, were confronted during a police operation. Authorities emphasized the operation aimed to protect the lives of migrants passing through the perilous region, a common route for those traveling northward to the U.S.

Amelia

Rueda

**NOTE: This product summarizes primary news sources and does not reflect the analysis or opinion of the U.S. Government**

**Outlet Information:**

**La Nacion** (Print. Most influential daily.

Circulation: 90,000. Unique visitors: 3,1 million. [www.nacion.com](http://www.nacion.com))

**Diario Extra** (Print. Populist daily. [www.diarioextra.com](http://www.diarioextra.com))

**La Republica** (Print. Financial daily. Circulation:

5,000. [www.larepublica.net](http://www.larepublica.net))

**La Teja** (Print. Populist. Circulation:

110,000. [www.lateja.cr](http://www.lateja.cr))

**El Financiero** (Print. Financial and economic

weekly. Circulation: 10,000. [www.elfinancierocr.com](http://www.elfinancierocr.com))

**Semanario Universidad** (Print. Weekly, leftist.

Circulation: 5,000. [www.semanariouniversidad.com](http://www.semanariouniversidad.com))

**CR Hoy** (Online. Unique visitors: 1.2 million

per month. Fans: 485,000. [www.crhoy.com](http://www.crhoy.com))

[ameliarueda.com](http://ameliarueda.com) (Online.

Centrist. Unique visitors: 500,000. Fans: 280,000. [www.ameliarueda.com](http://www.ameliarueda.com))

**El Observador** (Online. Centrist. Unique visitors:

500,000. [www.elobservadorcr.com](http://www.elobservadorcr.com))

**Puro Periodismo** (Online. Centrist. [www.puroperiodismo.com](http://www.puroperiodismo.com))

**Delfino.cr** (Online. Unique visitors: 200,000. [www.delfino.cr](http://www.delfino.cr))

[elmundo.cr](http://elmundo.cr) (Online.

Organic visitors: 50,000. [www.elmundo.cr](http://www.elmundo.cr))

**AM Prensa** (Online. Facebook followers: 251,000. [www.amprensa.com](http://www.amprensa.com))

**Tico Times** (Online. English. Unique visitors:

500,000. Fans: 65,000. [www.ticotimes.net](http://www.ticotimes.net))

**AM Costa Rica** (Online. English. Readership:

160,000. [www.amcostarica.com](http://www.amcostarica.com))

**Q Costa Rica** (Online. English. Unique visitors:

40,000 per month. [www.qcostarica.com](http://www.qcostarica.com))

**The Costa Rican Times** (Online. English.

Readership: 166,000 per month. [www.costaricantimes.com](http://www.costaricantimes.com))

**Channel 1** (TV. Costa Rican-owned. Most

recently founded TV station (2023). [www.canal1cr.com](http://www.canal1cr.com))

**Channel 7** (TV. Costa Rican-owned. Most watched

news program. [www.teletica.com](http://www.teletica.com))

**Channel 6** (TV. REPRETEL group, Mexican-owned. [www.repretel.com](http://www.repretel.com))

**Channel 8** (TV. Mexican-owned. [www.multimedios.cr](http://www.multimedios.cr))

**Channel 13** (TV. State-owned. [www.costaricamedios.cr](http://www.costaricamedios.cr))

**Channel 36** (TV. U.S. citizen David Patey is the owner. [www.trivision36.com](http://www.trivision36.com))

**Channel 38** (TV. Costa Rican-owned. [www.genteopa.com](http://www.genteopa.com))

**Radio Columbia** (Radio. Most listened radio news program. [www.columbia.co.cr](http://www.columbia.co.cr))

**Radio Monumental** (Radio. REPRETEL Group. [www.monumental.co.cr](http://www.monumental.co.cr))

**BNC** ([www.centrocultural.cr](http://www.centrocultural.cr))

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~



"All the News  
That's Fit to Print"

# The New York Times

**THE WEATHER**  
Today, mostly sunny, high 78. To-  
night, partly cloudy, low 64. **Tomor-  
row**, more humid, increasing clouds,  
rain possible late in the afternoon,  
high 76. Weather map is on Page D8.

VOL. CLXXIII . . . No. 60,279      © 2024 The New York Times Company      MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2024      Prices in Canada may be higher      \$4.00

## How 3 Women Tackle Doubts Over Elections

### Culling Georgia Voters or Registering Them

By ELI SASLOW

Helen Strahl stood at the front of a conference room in Savannah, Ga., last month and looked out at her audience, the evolving face of election denialism in 2024. There were no armed militia groups in attendance, no would-be revolutionaries dressed in capes and horns. The crowd was mostly made up of retirees and professional women, including some who wore glasses and T-shirts that read: "Got data?"

They called themselves the Georgia Nerds, and their volunteer group had spent the last several months challenging voter rolls and expressing skepticism about the upcoming presidential election before either candidate received a single vote.

"Can everybody hear me in the back?" asked Strahl, 65. A few people shook their heads, so she tried again.

"I'll speak up. Can you hear me now?"

A longtime compliance officer, Strahl had found her political voice during the last few years by taking advantage of a new Georgia law that allows private citizens to file mass challenges against other people's eligibility to vote. She has legally challenged more than a thousand voters in Chatham County during the past 18 months, quietly reshaping the electorate in a crucial stretch of coastal Georgia and amplifying conspiracy theories about widespread voter fraud. She wrote to elections officials to question the eligibility of seasonal workers who moved temporarily out of state, homeless residents who didn't have a proper address and almost 700 students or former students who were registered to vote at Savannah State University, one of the country's oldest historically Black colleges.

"I live in this county," she later explained. "I'd like to know my vote is going to count and not be diluted. It's in my interest to help maintain a clean and accurate voting roll."

It has become a popular tactic during a campaign season that has sometimes turned into a race between pro-democracy groups that try to register a historic number of voters and election deniers who try to inhibit registration drives and remove tens of thousands of people from the rolls. More than 40 states now allow for some type of voter challenges, and Donald J. Trump's campaign has encouraged activists to focus on the voter rolls in a relatively small number of liberal counties that could swing the election.

In Pittsburgh, a Trump supporter has challenged more than 25,000 people based mostly on change-of-address data, creating confusion among voters. In Detroit, teams of "election security" volunteers go door to door to verify people's addresses and then file challenges based on what they find. An election-monitoring organization called True the Vote,

Continued on Page A14

**JAN. 6 LIVES ON** Donald J. Trump clings to a revisionist history of the Capitol riot. PAGE A13



Boxes challenging the eligibility of voters in Chatham County in Georgia have piled up at the Board of Registrars. Gary Williams updating his address; voting machines being prepared.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY HILARY SWIFT FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

## Drug Dealers Endanger 'Pura Vida' of Costa Rica

By MARIA ABI-HABIB

LÍMON, Costa Rica — Before Christian Puchi set off for work in the rainforest, he made sure his machete was fastened to his hip and that his fellow forest rangers were doused in mosquito repellent. They jumped in their boat and navigated through throngs of tourists already on the water.

The tourists clutched binoculars, hoping to catch a glimpse of Costa Rica's famous turtles. Mr. Puchi and his men just hoped to

### Dense Rainforests Pair With Lax Oversight to Lure Traffickers

come back unscathed.

They can handle the poisonous frogs, venomous snakes and crocodiles. But with too few staff and inadequate gear, they're no match for the most dangerous threat now lurking in the national parks:

violent drug cartels.

"We used to focus on conservation, finding jaguar tracks, turtle nests, normal stuff. Now, protected areas like this one have become drug warehouses," said Mr. Puchi, 49, a forest ranger for over 20 years.

Costa Rica, often considered one of the region's most idyllic destinations, long escaped the scourge of cartels that has pervaded the region. Its national motto, "pura vida" or pure life, has for decades

Continued on Page A8



ALEJANDRO CEGARRA FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

A park ranger on patrol in Costa Rica. The nation has no military, so rangers combat illegal activity.

## Once Considered Enemies, Iran's Proxies Are Embraced in Iraq

By ALISSA J. RUBIN

BAGHDAD — There is no sign on the door of the new Hamas political office in Baghdad, and the address is closely guarded. The same goes for the new Houthi office, a short drive away.

Iraqi government officials quietly allowed both Iranian-backed

armed groups to establish a more permanent presence in Baghdad early this summer, after years of their representatives visiting.

The shift, which Iraqi officials deny publicly even as photos of the groups in Iraq circulate on social media, comes as Iran has appeared to encourage its proxies from different countries to share

military skills and even coordinate on targets.

The new offices reflect Iraq's growing role in the shadow war between Iran, Israel and the United States.

For more than 20 years, since the U.S. invasion to oust the Iraqi dictator, Saddam Hussein, Iraq has struggled to maintain an un-

easy balance between Iran, with which it shares a 1,000-mile border, and the United States, which still maintains about 2,500 troops in the country.

The balance has gradually shifted in favor of Iran. Iraq's neighbor has worked steadily to amplify its geopolitical sway by

Continued on Page A6

## TRUMP UNHARMED AFTER SHOTS FIRED AT FLORIDA COURSE

### A Suspect Is Arrested in What the F.B.I. Calls an Assassination Attempt

This article is by Patricia Mazzei, Jonathan Swan, Maggie Haberman, Adam Goldman and Glenn Thrush.

MIAMI — Former President Donald J. Trump was playing golf on Sunday afternoon in Florida when a Secret Service agent spotted a man with a rifle standing by a chain-link fence on the perimeter of the course, law enforcement officials said.

The agents opened fire, and the man fled in a black Nissan but was eventually taken into custody, the officials said.

While Mr. Trump was safe and unharmed, the Federal Bureau of Investigation said it was investigating the episode as an apparent attempted assassination, the second one against the former president in just over two months. Mr. Trump was wounded in a previous attempt during a July 13 rally in Butler, Pa.

The suspected gunman was identified as Ryan Wesley Routh, 58, of Hawaii, according to a law enforcement official who was granted anonymity to describe an open investigation.

The episode unfolded around 1:30 p.m. on Sunday as Mr. Trump was golfing at the Trump International Golf Course West Palm Beach, Sheriff Ric Bradshaw of Palm Beach County said at a news briefing.

A Secret Service agent standing a hole or two away from Mr. Trump saw the armed man hiding in the shrubbery by a fence at the perimeter of the course, according to Sheriff Bradshaw. The Secret

Service fired at the man, said Rafael Barros, the special agent in charge of the Secret Service's Miami field office, though it was not immediately clear if the suspect had fired any shots.

Mr. Trump was perhaps 400 yards away from the armed man, Sheriff Bradshaw said.

An AK-47-style rifle with a scope was found near the property line, along with two backpacks that were hung on the fence.



JOE RAEDLE/GETTY IMAGES

A rifle was among the items found by the authorities.

The backpacks contained ceramic tile, and investigators also found a video camera, the sheriff said, adding that investigators believed the man might have intended to film the shooting.

"President Trump is safe following gunshots in his vicinity," Steven Cheung, the Trump campaign's communications director, said in a statement.

A witness saw the man flee from

Continued on Page A13

## Adams's Crises Muddle Agenda And Re-election

By EMMA G. FITZSIMMONS and JEFFERY C. MAYS

If Mayor Eric Adams needed any further evidence of his diminished stature in New York City, this past week was a new low point.

On Tuesday, the mayor's hand-picked choice to become the city's top lawyer withdrew his nomination, sparing himself and the mayor from a public rejection.

Two days later, a separate embarrassment emerged: Mr. Adams's police commissioner, Edward A. Caban, resigned under duress. Mr. Caban and his twin brother are under federal investigation, one of four federal inquiries circling the highest levels of the Adams administration.

Then, late Saturday, came another blow: The mayor's top legal adviser at City Hall, Lisa Zornberg, abruptly stepped down.

The swarm of federal scrutiny has raised questions about Mr. Adams's fitness to lead the city, his ability to negotiate with the City Council and with state and federal leaders to push his agenda, and his capacity to lure and retain talented people in city government.

The scrutiny has also made his path to re-election more unwieldy. On Friday, a fourth prominent Democrat, State Senator Jessica Ramos, joined a crowded field of mayoral hopefuls seeking to stop Mr. Adams from winning a second term.

"Pretending that this is not happening or trying to brush it aside is no longer going to work," Jamaane Williams, the city's public advocate, said in an interview.

Continued on Page A11



PIPER TAICH

"Having fun is the point," said Piper Taich, a graphic designer.

## Arrangements And Eye Rolls In T.S.A. Line

By CLAIRE MOSES and REMY TUMIN

Phone: check. Passport: check. Boarding pass: check. Make it look cute: check. (Click.)

Over the past few months, influencers and content creators have flooded TikTok, Instagram and other social media sites with pictures and videos of aesthetically pleasing . . . airport trays. Yes, those gray, plastic bins in which you put your shoes, keys, laptop and other personal items.

In the images, the utilitarian bins come to life with carefully arranged accessories — cameras, headphones, tickets. Some displays get elaborate, adding designer purses and makeup, while others simply arrange commonplace items in a nicer way.

Continued on Page A12



INTERNATIONAL A4-9

**The Olympics for Tram Drivers**  
Europe's public transit captains went to Frankfurt to show off their skills at an annual championship. PAGE A4

**Deadly Floods in Africa**  
Rain in the west and central regions has left over 1,000 people dead and thousands of homes destroyed. PAGE A7

NATIONAL A10-15, 18

**Abortion vs. Border Security**  
A House race in New Mexico, considered one of the most competitive in the country, tests the dueling messages of Democrats and Republicans. PAGE A10

**In Georgia, Medicaid's Future?**  
A Medicaid work program is part of a Republican push to change how poor people qualify for health care. PAGE A18

OBITUARIES B5-6

**She Made Dresses Shimmer**  
Mary McFadden, 85, created embroideries and beadings on clothes worn by the likes of Jacqueline Onassis. PAGE B5



ARTS C1-6

**Delivering His Own Reviews**  
Over the years, Ian McKellen has had his disagreements with critics. Now he is playing one in a new film. PAGE C1

**New Twist to College Diversity**  
Does a truly inclusive campus require more conservatives on the faculty? Some Republicans think so. PAGE C1

BUSINESS B1-4

**20 Million Cards and Counting**  
Three years ago, a Virginia businessman bought a collection of sports memorabilia from its reclusive owner. Now he is trying to figure out how to show it to the world. PAGE B1

**What Jobs Data Doesn't Show**  
Layoffs are below pre-pandemic levels and applications for jobless benefits are falling. But past recessions suggest that such signs should not offer much comfort about the labor market. PAGE B1

OPINION A16-17

**David French** PAGE A17



SPORTS D1-8

**Shooting for a Hoops Revival**  
Griffin Taylor, left, and Jared Efron started the Program N.Y.C. to give emerging players in the city a space to develop their skills. PAGE D1



**From:** (b)(6) (Kyiv)  
**Sent:** Tue, 31 Oct 2023 06:49:16 +0000  
**To:** (b)(6) (Kyiv)  
**Cc:** (b)(6) (Kyiv)  
**Subject:** FW: Can we have an open line of communication for the Afghan soldier project  
**Attachments:** US embassy- restart Afghan project.docx

Dear (b)(6) can you please put it in the Correspondence Tracker and forward to (b)(5) Thank you!

With deep respect,

(b)(6)

U.S. Embassy in Ukraine  
mob. (b)(6)

---

**From:** Kyiv, ACS <KyivACS@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 31, 2023 2:15 AM  
**To:** Kyiv PROTOCOL <KYIVPROTOCOL@state.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: Can we have an open line of communication for the Afghan soldier project

Dear ladies,

I honestly tried to handle this request myself, (b)(6) must be swamped as he never answered. Will you take a look at the letter attached and see what can be done if anything?

Thank you and have a nice day,

(b)(6)

---

**From:** Kyiv, ACS  
**Sent:** Monday, October 30, 2023 11:02 AM  
**To:** (b)(6) (Kyiv) <(b)(6)@state.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: Can we have an open line of communication for the Afghan soldier project

(b)(6) hi,

Could you please take a look at this request and let me know what you think?

(b)(5)

Thank you!

(b)(6)

---

**From:** Ryan Routh <aid.in.ukraine@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 30, 2023 4:27 AM  
**To:** Kyiv, ACS <KyivACS@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Can we have an open line of communication for the Afghan soldier project

Dear Bridget Brink,

Attached is a letter requesting some sort of means of communication so that we can find a way to start the Afghan soldier project for Ukraine.



Can you please allocate some spokesperson to be the liaison for this project so that we can get you the accounting documents that you desire to get the soldiers to the front line. We have thousands of Afghan soldiers begging every day for the slightest bit of hope and meaning in life to be useful again and all we need to do is to give these soldiers a pathway to Ukraine.

We all want this project to work and all we need to do is talk to fix all the minor issues that are holding up this project. A simple conference call and we can resolve all of the issues.

Please help me get this started. This is a critical time and we must act.

Thanks, Ryan

Ryan Routh

International Volunteer Center

(b)(6) MSM, Signal, WhatsApp, Telegram, Viber

[FightforUkraine.com.ua](https://fightforukraine.com.ua) [Killed-in-Ukraine.com](https://killed-in-ukraine.com)

Coalition forces spend 3 trillion dollars and 15 years training 300,000 soldiers that we must use to defeat Russia.

October 29, 2023

US Embassy in Kyiv

4 Aircraft Designer St.

Kyiv, Ukraine 04112

Honorable Bridget Brink and Garrick Harmon,

I would like to respectfully ask why we cannot work one on one to pursue the Afghan soldier project?

I fully understand that your office does not need any unnecessary noise and correspondence that is not worthwhile; but I do not see how we can get these thousands of Afghan soldiers to the front lines without direct communication. Your staff has spoken with [REDACTED] (b)(6) at great length and most recently had a meeting where he was asked to provide the execution details of the project as well as accounting of how funds would be allocated and spent and he failed to submit those documents to you. While I had hoped that he could produce these documents, if he could not, I had hoped that you would reach out to me so that I can supply what you need. I will gladly do whatever it takes to get you the information that you need from any number of Ukrainian agencies so that we can get this project done. I can be back in Ukraine at a moment's notice and arrange what you need. Because [REDACTED] (b)(6) did not fulfill his obligation he is ashamed to give me any contact information since he dropped the ball. We have been discussing this and mailing documents and talking through [REDACTED] (b)(6) for months so it seems only logical that we at least have an email address that we can work through to try and make this happen. When I went to Taiwan the personnel at AIT came right out and we had a meeting right then and there and discussed all the items and options without hesitation and any issues. If you can possibly assign a low level spokesman that can help with some simple emails that would be wonderful.

Currently [REDACTED] (b)(6) is negotiating with GUR and they have requested that we assemble a complete battalion of 3000 Afghan soldiers that have passports so we are working on that currently. I am sending the leaders of the Afghans to Qatar to set up an office so that we can compile this list in safety away from the Taliban and Iran. As you may know, with Reznikov and Budanov we had an agreement to bring in 230 Afghan soldiers on a trial basis to join the International Legion, with plans for another 1000 and 2500 after that, but that fell apart with leadership changes and the constant begging for money. I have since mailed a package to Rustem Umerov and [REDACTED] (b)(6) has met with Zelenskyy but no defined movement yet. With your simple partnership and encouragement I am certain that we together can iron out all of the minor issues and make this project a tremendous benefit for everyone.

**From:** [REDACTED] (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Mon, 16 Sep 2024 11:31:32 +0000  
**To:** [REDACTED] (b)(6)  
**Subject:** FW: Breaking News: Suspected gunman at Trump golf course has a quixotic past

Wishing you a  
*Wonderful Day*

AMAZING Things will happen if you Believe, so try giving some LOVE !! ☺

[REDACTED] (b)(6)

*U. S. Department of State - Bureau of the Comptroller and Global  
Financial Services (CGFS)*

*Pay Support | Office:* [REDACTED] (b)(6) *CGFS/GC/PSP*

---

**From:** The Washington Post <email@washingtonpost.com>

**Sent:** Sunday, September 15, 2024 11:31 PM

**To:** [REDACTED] (b)(6)@state.gov>

**Subject:** Breaking News: Suspected gunman at Trump golf course has a quixotic past

Ryan Wesley Routh was taken into police custody Sunday while FBI agents searched for clues to his actions and possible motives, according to multiple law enforcement officials who spoke on the condition of anonymity. Public records show Routh, 58, as living most recently in Kaaawa on the island of Oahu in Hawaii. He spent his recent years trying to muster up a ragtag army to defend Ukraine and writing a book about his failed efforts.

[Sign up for alerts](#)

Breaking News

Sept. 15, 11:29 p.m. EDT

## **Suspected gunman at Trump golf course has a quixotic past**

Ryan Wesley Routh was taken into police custody Sunday while FBI agents searched for clues to his actions and possible motives, according to multiple law enforcement officials who spoke on the condition of anonymity. Public records show Routh, 58, as living most recently in Kaaawa on the island of Oahu in Hawaii. He spent his recent years trying to muster up a ragtag army to defend Ukraine and writing a book about his failed efforts.

[Read more](#)

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subscription.

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**From:** Ralph J. Bunche Library  
**Sent:** Tue, 7 Nov 2023 20:45:56 +0000 (GMT)  
**To:** (b)(6)@state.gov  
**Cc:** (b)(6)@state.gov  
**Subject:** Confirming Your Request: Case 00318625 - Subject: RE: Article request (Library, Ralph Bunche)

We received your request! A Library staff member will respond back as soon as possible.

Check out the many Library resources available to you on [our website](#).



*The Ralph J. Bunche Library empowers diplomacy by delivering world-class research services, information resources, and customer service to Department of State personnel around the globe.*

ref:l00D300mqyv.l5003d09oas8:ref

**Original Email Thread:**

Hi - The article linked below concerns efforts by western "volunteers" to fight in Ukraine, or help move equipment and supplies to Ukraine, or in one case transport foreign fighters to Ukraine. I'm particularly interested in the references to "Ryan Routh" and "International Volunteer Corps." (b)(5)

(b)(5)

Thanks,

(b)(6)

Political-Military Unit Chief

U.S. Embassy Kyiv, Department of State

Mobile, Signal, WhatsApp: (b)(6)

**~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~**

From (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, November 7, 2023 10:39 PM

To: Library Help <LibraryHelp@state.gov>

Subject: Article request

Dear Bunche Library: could you please send a copy of this article to me?

<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/03/25/world/europe/volunteers-us-ukraine-lies.html>

(b)(5) If there's a quick way to pull these articles, or a way I can do this myself without bothering you, please let me know.

Best wishes,



[REDACTED] (b)(6)

Political-Military Unit Chief

U.S. Embassy Kyiv, Department of State

Mobile, Signal, WhatsApp: [REDACTED] (b)(6)

**Unclassified**



**From:** TSGSystem@tsg.state.gov  
**Sent:** Sat, 3 Feb 2024 19:13:02 -0500 (EST)  
**To:** asknvc@state.gov  
**Subject:** Ask NVC - Inquiry Form (b)(3)  
**Attachments:** (b)(3); (b)(6)

Please do not reply to this email. NVC will answer your inquiry in the order in which it was received. Consult <https://nvc.state.gov/timeframes> to find out when you can expect a response. We will not respond substantively to mail sent directly to this address. Follow-up inquiries may be made at <https://nvc.state.gov/inquiry>.

Please retain this email as a record of your contact with NVC.

**Case Number:**

(b)(3)

**Principal Name:**

(b)(6)

**Date of Birth:**

(b)(6)

**Petitioner Name:**

(b)(6)

(b)(3); (b)(6)

**Attorney of Record Name:**

(b)(3)

**Attorney Additional Information:**

(b)(3)

**Inquirer Name:**

N/A

**Inquirer Email:**

(b)(6)

**Your Question(s):**

(b)(3); (b)(6)

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(3); (b)(6)

**From:** (b)(3); (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Sat, 3 Feb 2024 11:18:47 +0430  
**To:** NVCSIV@state.gov  
**Subject:** Apply for USA visa  
**Attachments:** (b)(3); (b)(6)

(b)(3); (b)(6)

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(3); (b)(6)

**From:** (b)(3); (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Tue, 20 Aug 2024 19:47:55 +0430  
**To:** AfghanSIVapplication@state.gov  
**Subject:** Application for Chief of Mission (COM)  
**Attachments:** (b)(3); (b)(6)

You don't often get email from

(b)(3); (b)(6)

[Learn why this is important](#)

(b)(3); (b)(6)

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(3); (b)(6)

**From:** [REDACTED] (b)(3); (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Sat, 7 Sep 2024 18:33:00 +0430  
**To:** afghansivapplication@state.gov  
**Subject:** [REDACTED] (b)(3); (b)(6)  
**Attachments:** [REDACTED]

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] (b)(3); (b)(6) [Learn why this is important](#)

(b)(3); (b)(6)



Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(3); (b)(6)

**From:** (b)(3); (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Wed, 28 Aug 2024 19:31:14 +0430  
**To:** AfghanSIVapplication@state.gov  
**Subject:** (b)(3); (b)(6)  
**Attachments:** (b)(3); (b)(6)

You don't often get email from (b)(3); (b)(6) [Learn why this is important](#)

(b)(3); (b)(6)

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(3); (b)(6)

**From:** Ryan Routh  
**Sent:** Wed, 17 May 2023 06:32:26 -1000  
**To:** Taipeiacs@state.gov  
**Subject:** 100,000 NATO trained soldiers available for delivery to Taiwan

Dear ACS,

As I am sure you are aware, China is recalling all of its soldiers and mobilizing all of its military so that it can take Taiwan prior to the upcoming US presidential election. I currently have 100,000 NATO trained forces available that coalition forces paid 2.25 Trillion dollars training for over 15 years and they are extremely economical soldiers and great soldiers with combat experience. All of these soldiers are now refugees from Afghanistan and are desperate for a new safe home; if we can provide them a new safe home that is a major part of their salary already, and even in ideal conditions they were paid between 200 and 300 US dollars per month so the pay scale is economical.

I am unclear on the stance that the entire world is taking on the impending Taiwan disaster, but I feel that we cannot simply hand Taiwan to China in one day.

I had inquired at two city offices in Taiwan for a location to hold an International Music festival to bring in civilians from around the world and have yet to get anyone to generate a location after nearly a month. I am truly inspired by the Baltic Chain event back in 1989 in Lithuania where a human chain was formed and that what we need around the entire coastline of Taiwan; whereby tents from around the world are camping to protect Taiwan.

I am here in Ukraine brokering a deal for these Afghan soldiers but it seems they cannot decide; and they may be more useful in Taiwan anyway.

We can fly complete airplane loads out of Islamabad Pakistan or Erbil Iraq whenever you are ready.

We only have about 200 with passports, so all the balance must be processed without passports. We can provide all of the vital information and US background checks.

My Taiwanese military partner said that decisions were cleared through you.

Thanks for your time and help,

--

Ryan Routh

International Volunteer Center

(b)(6) MSM, Signal, WhatsApp, Telegram, Viber

[FightforUkraine.com.ua](https://fightforukraine.com.ua) [Killed-in-Ukraine.com](https://killed-in-ukraine.com)

Coalition forces spend 3 trillion dollars and 15 years training 300,000 soldiers that we must use to defeat Russia.

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Mon, 16 Sep 2024 20:06:08 +0000  
**To:** (b)(6) (Kyiv); (b)(6) (Kyiv)  
**Subject:** {KG, (b)(6)} Correspondence Tasker: 2023- 155 - the Afghan soldier project  
**Attachments:** AM - Letter for Afgan Project.docx

Hello! Just wanted to flag in case it should come up that Ryan Routh wrote to the Ambassador last November.

(b)(5)

Hopefully that is the last any of us sees or hears of it. 🙏

I hope you're both doing well. I miss Embassy Kyiv!

Best wishes,

(b)(6)

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

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**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Monday, November 13, 2023 8:00:28 AM  
**To:** Kyiv, Front Office Paper <KyivFrontOfficePaper@state.gov>  
**Cc:** (b)(6) (Kyiv) (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6) (Kyiv) (b)(6)@state.gov;  
(b)(6) (Kyiv) (b)(6)@state.gov  
**Subject:** KFOP: Correspondence Tasker: 2023- 155 - the Afghan soldier project

KFOP: please see attached our response on tasker 2023-155  [AM - Letter for Afgan Project.docx](#)

Thanks,

(b)(6)

Political-Military Unit Chief

U.S. Embassy Kyiv, Department of State

Mobile, Signal, WhatsApp: (b)(6)

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**From:** Kyiv, Front Office Paper <KyivFrontOfficePaper@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 31, 2023 2:41 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)(Kyiv) (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)(Kyiv) (b)(6)@state.gov;  
(b)(6)(Kyiv) (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)(Kyiv) (b)(6)@state.gov  
**Cc:** Kyiv PROTOCOL <KYIVPROTOCOL@state.gov>  
**Subject:** Correspondence Tasker: 2023- 155 - the Afghan soldier project  
**Importance:** Low

DUE DATE: Tuesday, November 7, 2023

EXECUTIVE TASKERS:

[ACCESS TASK HERE](#)

**This link contains correspondence received by the Ambassador or DCM, and is being tasked for your action or situational awareness.**

**Direct Response:** As you deem appropriate, please respond directly from your office to the individual, on behalf of the Ambassador or DCM.

Please update Executive Office and Protocol (Kyiv\_EXEC@state.gov (CC KyivProtocol@state.gov) ) when a response has been sent, so we can mark the tasking as completed.

**Draft Text for Ambassador:** If you determine a response sent directly from the Ambassador is required, please send draft text to KyivFrontOfficePaper@state.gov, using designated style guide and formats.

**Info Only:** Some correspondence is passed only for your awareness, noted in the comments section as for “your information only”—this does NOT require any response from you.

If you feel this tasking is incorrect or have additional questions, please email Protocol Assistants at KyivProtocol@state.gov.

Thank you,

Embassy Kyiv Front Office Staff



*Embassy of the United States of America  
Kyiv, Ukraine*

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November 13, 2023

**ACTION MEMO FOR AMBASSADOR BRINK**

FROM: POL – (b)(6)

THROUGH: A/DCM – Jim Hope

SUBJECT: ~~(SBU)~~ Correspondence Tasker: 2023- 155 - the Afghan soldier project

**Background**

~~(SBU)~~ (b)(5)

(b)(5)

~~(SBU)~~ (b)(5)

(b)(5)

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-2-

(SBU)

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

(SBU) Recommendation:

(b)(5)

Decision: ☐ Approve ☐ Disapprove ☐ Discuss

(SBU) Recommendation:

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

Decision: ☐ Approve ☐ Disapprove ☐ Discuss

Attachments:

Tab 1 – Letter from Ryan Routh of the International Volunteer Corps

Tab 2 – Draft Response Letter for Ambassador's Consideration

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-3-

**CLEARANCES**Drafted: POL:  (b)(6)

Approved: A/DCM: DSchlaefer

Cleared:

POL:  (b)(6) (ok)POL:  (b)(6) (ok)POL:  (b)(6) (ok)DAO:  (b)(6) (ok)~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

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## **TAB 1 – Incoming Correspondence**

October 29, 2023

US Embassy in Kyiv

4 Aircraft Designer St.

Kyiv, Ukraine 04112

Honorable Bridget Brink and Garrick Harmon,

I would like to respectfully ask why we cannot work one on one to pursue the Afghan soldier project?

I fully understand that your office does not need any unnecessary noise and correspondence that is not worthwhile; but I do not see how we can get these thousands of Afghan soldiers to the front lines without direct communication. Your staff has spoken with [REDACTED] (b)(6) at great length and most recently had a meeting where he was asked to provide the execution details of the project as well as accounting of how funds would be allocated and spent and he failed to submit those documents to you. While I had hoped that he could produce these documents, if he could not, I had hoped that you would reach out to me so that I can supply what you need. I will gladly do whatever it takes to get you the information that you need from any number of Ukrainian agencies so that we can get this project done. I can be back in Ukraine at a moment's notice and arrange what you need. Because [REDACTED] (b)(6) did not fulfill his obligation he is ashamed to give me any contact information since he dropped the ball. We have been discussing this and mailing documents and talking through [REDACTED] (b)(6) for months so it seems only logical that we at least have an email address that we can work through to try and make this happen. When I went to Taiwan the personnel at AIT came right out and we had a meeting right then and there and

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-5-

discussed all the items and options without hesitation and any issues. If you can possibly assign a low level spokesman that can help with some simple emails that would be wonderful.

Currently (b)(6) is negotiating with GUR and they have requested that we assemble a complete battalion of 3000 Afghan soldiers that have passports so we are working on that currently. I am sending the leaders of the Afghans to Qatar to set up an office so that we can compile this list in safety away from the Taliban and Iran. As you may know, with Reznikov and Budanov we had an agreement to bring in 230 Afghan soldiers on a trial basis to join the International Legion, with plans for another 1000 and 2500 after that, but that fell apart with leadership changes and the constant begging for money. I have since mailed a package to Rustem Umerov and (b)(6) has met with Zelenskyy but no defined movement yet. With your simple partnership and encouragement I am certain that we together can iron out all of the minor issues and make this project a tremendous benefit for everyone.

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-6-

**TAB 2 – Draft Reply**

Kyiv, Ukraine  
November 13, 2023

Mr. Ryan Routh  
[aid.in.ukraine@gmail.com](mailto:aid.in.ukraine@gmail.com)  
International Volunteer Center

(b)(6)

[FightforUkraine.com.ua](http://FightforUkraine.com.ua)

Dear Mr. Routh:

(b)(5)

Sincerely,

Bridget Brink

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**EAP Press Guidance**  
**September 17, 2024**

**TAIWAN: Linkages with Alleged Shooter in Trump Assassination Attempt**

(b)(5)

**Approved:** EAP – Camille Dawson, Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary [CD]

**Drafted by:** AIT/T, [REDACTED] (b)(6)

**Clearances:**

EAP/FO/DAS: [REDACTED] (b)(6) (ok)

EAP/PPD/SPOX: [REDACTED] (b)(6) (ok)

EAP/Press: [REDACTED] (b)(6) (ok)

EAP/TC: [REDACTED] (b)(6) (ok)

EAP/China/Cross-Strait: [REDACTED] (b)(6) (ok)

EAP/China/Stratcom: [REDACTED] (b)(6) (ok)

L/EAP: [REDACTED] (b)(6) (ok)

C: (info)

R: [REDACTED] (b)(6) (ok)

D: [REDACTED] (b)(6) (ok)

P: [REDACTED] (b)(6) (ok)

S/P: [REDACTED] (b)(6) (info)

NSC #Press: [REDACTED] (b)(6) (ok)

SPOX: Vedant Patel (ok)