

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 24, 2020

Honorable Steven T. Mnuchin
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20220

Honorable William Barr
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20530

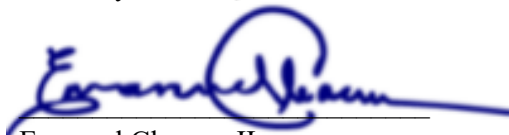
Dear Secretary Mnuchin & Attorney General Barr,

Last week, the Department of Justice announced the seizure of millions of dollars' worth of cryptocurrency raised by designated Foreign Terrorist Organizations, which could be used to finance attacks against Americans and our allies.¹ The Department uncovered extensive and sophisticated solicitations of donations via cryptocurrency from some of the world's most heinous terrorist groups, including ISIS, al Qaeda, and the al-Qassam Brigades, Hamas's military wing, on social media websites such as Facebook and Twitter, including taking advantage of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic to sell fraudulent personal protective equipment (PPE) to unsuspecting buyers online.

It is vital that Members of the Subcommittee on National Security, International Development and Monetary Policy receive a briefing, at the appropriate classification level, on this action, the largest ever seizure of online terrorist financing, from the Department of Justice, the Department of the Treasury on this investigation. In addition, we respectfully request Treasury provide an assessment of how it is working to proactively confront and curtail these malign actors within our financial networks. This will further inform the Subcommittee on what legislative actions we should be undertaking to provide regulators and law enforcement the proper resources and tools to continue to address the illicit use of cryptocurrency and disrupt terrorist organizations' financial networks.

Thank you for your commitment to keeping the American people safe from those who threaten our communities. We look forward to working closely with you as the Subcommittee continues to work on this important issue.

Sincerely,



Emanuel Cleaver, II
Chairman
Subcommittee on National Security,
International Development and Monetary Policy
House Committee on Financial Services



Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress

¹ <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/08/13/us/politics/bitcoin-terrorism.html>