

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tulsi Gabbard
Director of National Intelligence
1500 Tysons McLean Drive
McClean, VA 22102

October 24, 2025

Dear Director Gabbard:

The Department of Defense has now conducted eight lethal strikes on suspected drug vessels in the Caribbean and Pacific. According to the Department, these strikes have killed at least 34 individuals.

Despite our repeated requests, the intelligence committees have received virtually no information about the Intelligence Community's support for these operations. We have not been told which agencies are providing intelligence support, the nature of that assistance, or the amount of IC resources and personnel dedicated to this effort. Nor have we been advised about the IC's role in collecting and analyzing intelligence after the strikes to assess the identities of those targeted, the type and quantity of drugs that may have been onboard, and the impact of the strikes. This is a clear violation of the legal obligation to keep the intelligence committees fully and currently informed.

To be clear – we are acutely aware of the tens of thousands of American lives lost every year to illicit drugs and we agree that these dangerous criminal cartels should be held to account. However, in order for us to conduct our basic, constitutionally required oversight of the IC there are fundamental questions that require answers, to include the factual basis for and effects of the strikes.

Most importantly, good intelligence is critical to ensure that these operations do not kill innocent people with no connection to the drug trade. There have already been public reports that these strikes have killed individuals who were not affiliated with any drug trafficking organization.

Attached to this letter is a classified addendum with detailed questions about the IC's role in these lethal operations, including target identification, operational support, post-strike assessment, and the strategic effect of these strikes to date. We request your written response no later than October 31, 2025, and that you make appropriate IC personnel available to brief the Committees as soon as possible.

Finally, the Administration has acknowledged the existence of a legal opinion from the Department of Justice's Office of Legal Counsel which purports to provide legal justification for

these strikes. That opinion has not been provided to Congress, and neither the Department of Defense nor any other executive agency has provided information about its legal analysis.

To the extent that IC personnel are assisting DOD activities in this space, they must do so knowing that they are supporting legally authorized operations. Accordingly, please tell us in writing whether IC attorneys have independently analyzed the legality of these strikes and the potential for legal repercussions for IC personnel who support them. If such an analysis exists, we ask that you provide it to the congressional intelligence committees. If it does not, we ask that the appropriate Intelligence Community personnel brief the committee on why they assessed it was not required.

Sincerely,



Jim Himes
Ranking Member
House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence



Mark R. Warner
Vice Chairman
Senate Select Committee on Intelligence

cc: The Honorable Pete Hegseth, Secretary of Defense