



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

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SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

Mr. John F. Sopko  
Special Inspector General  
Office of the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR)  
2530 Crystal Drive  
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Mr. Sopko:

(SBU) The Department of State appreciates the efforts that you have taken to temporarily suspend access to audit and inspection reports to support the safe exit from Afghanistan of individuals identified in those reports. Upon further assessment, the Department has recognized additional identifying information on implementing partners and activities in reports that remain accessible on the SIGAR website that may put individuals at risk. Cognizant of SIGAR's role and authorities, we wanted to highlight these areas of concern but defer to you on an approach that will protect grantees and implementers identified in these reports while ensuring consistency with legal requirements.

(SBU) For additional context, the Department searched the names of known implementing partners and activities using the SIGAR website's search function, yielding a substantial number of results. While the results include many reports that are not available due to the temporary restrictions in place, several resulting reports that identify implementing partners and activities, including the Quarterly Reports to Congress and Press Releases, remain accessible. Moreover, several of these reports include photographs of individuals associated with State partner organizations. Our recommended approach would be to follow the same procedures that were taken with the initial set of SIGAR reports by temporarily suspending access to these reports until these individuals can safely exit the country or until these reports can be assessed and scrubbed of identifying information.

(SBU) The Department is currently developing guidance to assist organizations in the review and redaction of information in reports to allow for republication, which we will gladly provide to SIGAR once finalized. In the meantime, we defer to you on an approach to address the immediate concerns that the availability of these reports presents to State partners that remain in the country. We are available to assist you as needed and we appreciate your efforts in making the current situation safer for our partners.

Sincerely,

*Dafna H. Rand*

Dr. Dafna Rand

Director

Office of Foreign Assistance

Cc: Deputy SIGAR – Gene Aloise  
SIGAR Chief of Staff – Jayrd Bern  
Assistant SIGAR for Audits and Inspections – Matthew Dove

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