

BRIAN J. MAST, FLORIDA
CHAIRMAN

JAMES LANGENDERFER
STAFF DIRECTOR



GREGORY W. MEEKS, NEW YORK
RANKING MEMBER

SAJIT GANDHI
DEMOCRATIC STAFF DIRECTOR

One Hundred Nineteenth Congress
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Foreign Affairs
2170 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
www.foreignaffairs.house.gov

October 23, 2025

The Honorable Brian Mast
Chairman
House Committee on Foreign Affairs
Rayburn House Office Building
Washington DC, 20515

Dear Chairman Mast,

I write with urgency to request that you convene a hearing of the House Foreign Affairs Committee with relevant senior administration officials on the Trump Administration's recent unauthorized military strikes on vessels in the Caribbean and Pacific, as part of its expanding military operations in the Western Hemisphere.

As you know, our Committee has jurisdiction over authorizations for the use of military force and the war powers resolution. The nine strikes President Trump has ordered to date in the Caribbean and Pacific—without Congressional authorization and resulting in at least 37 deaths—warrant the Committee's immediate and thorough scrutiny.

The Administration's claim that a newly invented "Designated Terrorist Organization" list grants it inherent authority to launch these strikes is inconsistent with Congress's clear Article I power to declare war—not the President's. The absence of any credible legal rationale for the Administration's armed campaign against drug cartels raises alarming questions about whether it intends to conduct similar extrajudicial strikes elsewhere in the world—or even within the United States.

Equally troubling is the credibility of the intelligence underpinning these operations. Press reporting indicates that two of the individuals killed in the October 14 strike were fishermen from Trinidad and Tobago, not members of "nonstate armed groups" engaged in an "armed attack against the United States." Moreover, following the October 16 strike, rather than

prosecute the survivors, the United States repatriated them without any assurance of prosecution—undermining its own assertion that they are hardened terrorists.

Ultimately, we may not agree on the value or even the legality of these strikes. But there should be no disagreement that the House Foreign Affairs Committee has a constitutional duty to conduct oversight on matters of war and peace in which the Executive is acting wittingly without congressional authorization. The Administration's unilateral, ongoing expansion of these strikes into a potentially broader regional war should concern every member of Congress who wishes to reclaim Congress' authority to prevent endless wars that lack clear objectives and needlessly endanger American lives. I urge you to immediately schedule public hearings with senior Administration officials to obtain the transparency, answers, and accountability the Congress and the American people deserve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Gregory W. MEEKS". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "G" and a horizontal line extending across the name.

GREGORY W. MEEKS
Ranking Member