

November 17, 2017

Members of Congress: No Permanent Iranian Foothold in Syria

On Nov. 14, nearly 50 U.S. representatives who recently visited the Middle East sent a bipartisan letter to U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson expressing their concern regarding Iran's increased military presence in Syria. "Should Iran be allowed to maintain a permanent military presence in Syria, it would pose a significant threat to Israel, Jordan, and United States interests," wrote the members. "A permanent Iranian presence in Syria would connect Lebanon-based Hizballah to Iran via Iraq and Syria. This would give Iran the ability to project power from the Persian Gulf to the Mediterranean Sea. Any agreement or policy that allows Iran to station forces on or near Israel and Jordan's border does not serve U.S. interests." The letter calls on the United States to take action, highlighting Iran's increased military action through its terror proxy Hizballah and the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps' foreign operations wing, the Qods Force. "We urge you to come to Congress with a strategy for Syria that includes how the United States plans to prevent Iran from gaining a permanent foothold on Israel and Jordan's doorstep and to block Iranian arms exports to Hizballah."

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