

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 15, 2021

The Honorable Antony Blinken  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Secretary Blinken,

As co-chairs of the Friends of a Free, Stable and Democratic Syria Caucus, we write to you today to ask that the Biden Administration create a coherent and comprehensive U.S. policy towards Syria.

As we mark the tenth anniversary of war in Syria, growing instability, renewed political unrest, and the public health challenges posed by the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) have only worsened conditions on the ground for the Syrian people. Additionally, the humanitarian situation in Syria remains dire. Over 400,000 men, women, and children have already been killed by Bashar al-Assad. An estimated 11 million people need humanitarian assistance, and more than half of the population remains displaced from their homes – including 5.5 million refugees living in neighboring countries and another 6 million internally displaced inside Syria. Women and children comprise more than half of those displaced. The Syrian people have suffered immensely, and U.S. leadership on this issue at the United Nations and on the world stage is sorely needed.

On December 20, 2019, the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act was signed into law, which provides the United States tools to help end the ongoing conflict by promoting accountability for the Assad regime and their backers in Russia and Iran. While we support the continued enforcement of the Caesar Act, Congress will conduct rigorous oversight of this law to ensure that those responsible for the worst human rights violations are held accountable. Additionally, we urge the administration to reject efforts by the international community to reengage with Bashar Al-Assad, a war criminal and perpetrator of genocide. The United States must continue to protect for those men, women, and children who cannot protect themselves from tyrants.

We also hope the administration will reconsider funding for stabilization efforts in the country. Stabilization funding goes towards countering violent extremism and promoting civil society and governance programs. In the past, these funds provided clean running water and support for the reconstruction of destroyed schools. As we've seen in the last ten years, Syria's stability is important to the long-term security of the United States and our regional allies.

We ask for the administration's continued diplomatic engagement on these important issues. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Brendan F. Boyle  
Member of Congress



Adam Kinzinger  
Member of Congress