

COMMITTEE ON
ARMED SERVICES

COMMITTEE ON
FOREIGN RELATIONS

COMMITTEE ON
THE BUDGET

COMMITTEE ON
HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR,
AND PENSIONS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4607

July 24, 2026

Dear Secretary Hegseth:

I write regarding the preselected lists of targets in Iran used during the initial strikes of Operation Epic Fury. I am deeply concerned about the inclusion of a school in Minab, Iran on the lists of verified targets and the death of over 150 civilians, the majority of whom were children.

The school was allegedly targeted during the strikes on February 28, 2026, because the Department relied on outdated information provided by the Defense Intelligence Agency. U.S. officials have stated this data indicated that the building housing Shajarah Tayyebbeh Elementary School was part of a military base, but public reporting has revealed that one analyst raised concerns about the accuracy of that assessment as early as 2019. Tragically, those concerns were not heeded and the school continued to be revalidated as a legitimate military target.

My expectation is that your Department's report on the bombing will include a detailed analysis of why the analyst's concerns were ignored.

In addition, I request answers to the following questions no later than August 14, 2026:

1. What formal procedures exist for analysts to report concerns about potential targets?
2. What formal procedures exist for targets to be reviewed after a concern is raised about their accuracy?
3. Why did the Minab school remain on the target list for years after American intelligence warned that it should be removed and after publicly available data clearly showed that it was a school?
4. When will your department's report on the bombing of Shajarah Tayyebbeh Elementary School be released?
5. Where is this report in the review process as of July 24, 2026?
6. Who else in the Department must review and sign off on this report?
7. What criteria are being used to evaluate the report?

Sincerely,



Tim Kaine
United States Senator