

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

October 19, 2018

President Donald Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

The murder of Jamal Khashoggi has incensed both the American people and people around the world. Mr. Khashoggi, an American resident and a journalist for *The Washington Post*, disappeared two weeks ago in Istanbul after he was allegedly “lured into the Saudi consulate . . . then murdered and dismembered by a team dispatched by the Saudi royal court.”¹

In light of these events, both Republicans and Democrats in Congress have called for a reevaluation of our nation’s relationship with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Other world leaders have joined us in demanding an open investigation into this murder and the Saudi government’s involvement with it. Unfortunately, your public comments have demonstrated a willingness to give undue credence to the Saudi government’s unbelievable stories and denials. Your Administration’s response calls into question whether you are acting based on the American public’s interests or your own private interests. Moreover, it appears that the steps you have taken to insulate yourself from foreign conflicts of interest are more limited and less adequate than previously understood. We write to request additional information about your ongoing personal enrichment from Saudi government payments.

It appears Saudi princes and the Saudi government have provided you and The Trump Organization with infusions of cash since the 1990s.² These include, among other things, your sale of a yacht in 1991 to a Saudi Prince, the sale in 2001 of an entire floor of Trump World Tower to Saudis, your statement in June 2015 that “I love the Saudis . . . many in Trump Tower, and your statement in August 2015 that the Saudis “buy apartments from me . . . Spend \$40

¹ Joel Simon, *What Makes Jamal Khashoggi’s Alleged Murder So Depraved*, Washington Post (Oct. 11, 2018), available at https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/jamal-khashoggis-alleged-murder-represents-a-new-kind-of-depravity/2018/10/11/38a0f784-cd89-11e8-920f-dd52e1ae4570_story.html?utm_term=.581549131c5a.

² David A. Fahrenthold and Jonathan O’Connell, *‘I Like Them Very Much:’ Trump Has Long-Standing Business Ties With Saudis, Who Have Boosted His Hotels Since He Took Office*, Washington Post (Oct. 11, 2018), available at https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/i-like-them-very-much-trump-has-long-standing-business-ties-with-saudis-who-have-boosted-his-hotels-since-he-took-office/2018/10/11/0870df24-cd67-11e8-a360-85875bac0b1f_story.html?noredirect=on&utm_term=.a34c31239fe2.

million -- \$50 million.³ As President, you continue to accept payments from the Saudi government: in 2017, a lobbying firm working for the Saudi government spent \$270,000 at the Trump International Hotel in Washington D.C.;⁴ in 2018, the Trump International Hotel & Tower in New York City and in Chicago received “an influx of visitors from Saudi Arabia” that mitigated significant losses and boosted quarterly revenues.⁵

In fact, The Trump Organization, told investors that “their losses [have] been cushioned, partly by new customers from overseas,” specifically by the Saudis.⁶ In March 2018, travelers accompanying the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia stayed at the Trump International Hotel in New York; their five-day stay “was enough to boost the hotel’s revenue for the entire quarter.”⁷ Similarly, “Saudi-based customers . . . booked 218 nights” at the Trump International Hotel & Tower in Chicago, representing a 169% increase in bookings from the same period in 2016.⁸ And these are just the payments we know about – those revealed due to the hard work of American journalists.

Given your ongoing refusal to disclose your foreign emoluments or to obtain Congressional approval before accepting them – as required by the Constitution – the American people do not know the full scope of benefits you and The Trump Organization have received and continue to receive from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and other foreign governments. The Trump Organization has made clear that it has no “intention . . . to attempt to identify individual travelers who have not specifically identified themselves as being a representative of a foreign government entity on foreign government business” because “[t]o fully and completely identify all patronage . . . by customer type is impractical.”⁹

In response to widespread outrage from the American people about your failure to comply with the Foreign Emoluments Clause, you announced shortly before your inauguration that you would “donate all profits from foreign governments’ patronage of [your] hotels and

³ Fox News Research (@FoxNewsResearch), Twitter, October 16, 2018, 9:10 AM.

⁴ See generally Gabriel Florit, Jonathan O’Connell, David A. Fahrenthold, and Teddy Amenbar, *Tracking Who Is Spending Money at President Trump’s D.C. Hotel*, Washington Post (last updated May 4, 2018), available at https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2018/politics/trump-hotel-events/?utm_term=.8d321112b789.

⁵ See David A. Fahrenthold, Jonathan O’Connell, and Morgan Krakow, *At Trump’s Big-City Hotels, Business Dropped as His Political Star Rose, Internal Documents Show*, Washington Post (Oct. 4, 2018), available at https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/at-trumps-big-city-hotels-business-dropped-as-his-political-star-rose-internal-documents-show/2018/10/03/bd26b1d6-b6d4-11e8-a7b5-adaaa5b2a57f_story.html?utm_term=.14adbe6fcab1 [hereinafter *At Trump’s Big-City Hotels*].

⁶ *At Trump’s Big City Hotels*, *supra* note 6.

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ The Trump Organization, *Trump: Donation of Profits from Foreign Government Patronage* at p. 4 (May 2017), available at <https://democrats-oversight.house.gov/sites/democrats.oversight.house.gov/files/documents/Trump%20Org%20Pamphlet%20on%20Foreign%20Profits.pdf> [hereinafter *Donation of Profits from Foreign Government Patronage*].

similar businesses during [your] presidential term to the U.S. Treasury.”¹⁰ In response to a letter that Senator Blumenthal sent on February 26, 2018, The Trump Organization cited this announcement as a solution to the legal and ethical problems created by its receipt of foreign benefits.¹¹

This plan does not even purport to address foreign government benefits that you receive that are not the result of “foreign governments’ patronage of [your] hotels and similar businesses during [your] presidential term.” Moreover, this approach leaves you free to continue accepting massive benefits from Saudi Arabia and other foreign governments without transparency or accountability. After all, it is The Trump Organization’s stated position to donate only *profits*, *not revenue*.¹² In other words, The Trump Organization created a glaring loophole: Unless a particular Trump property is making a profit, revenue generated from foreign government patronage will *not* be donated to the U.S. Treasury. Rather, The Trump Organization (and you and your family) retains the benefit, while the American people never see a penny.

Because of the widespread concern that your receipt of foreign emoluments from the Saudi Arabian government may be influencing the manner in which your Administration is responding to the horrific killing of Jamal Khashoggi, we would ask that you answer the following questions.

1. On February 26, 2018, The Trump Organization announced that it made its first “voluntary” donation of profits it received from foreign governments.¹³ On March 9, 2018, the Trump Organization disclosed how much that it donated \$151,470.¹⁴
 - a. From which Trump Organization properties was the \$151,470 derived?
 - b. From which foreign government patrons was the \$151,470 derived?

2. Which properties owned and managed by The Trump Organization generated revenue, but not an overall “Property Profit” in 2017?

¹⁰ Press Conference, *White Paper: Conflicts of Interest and the President*, Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP at p. 6 (Jan. 11, 2017), available at <https://assets.documentcloud.org/documents/3280261/MLB-White-Paper-1-10-Pm.pdf>.

¹¹ Letter to Senator Blumenthal from The Trump Organization (April 6, 2018).

¹² *Donation of Profits from Foreign Government Patronage*, *supra* note 7, at pp. 2-3, 7-8.

¹³ David A. Fahrenthold and Jonathan O’Connell, *Trump Organization Says It Has Donated Profits to U.S. Treasury, But Declines to Share Details*, Washington Post (Feb. 26, 2018), available at https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/trump-organization-says-it-has-donated-foreign-profits-to-us-treasury-but-declines-to-share-details/2018/02/26/747522e0-1b22-11e8-ae5a-16e60e4605f3_story.html?utm_term=.09baee11d779.

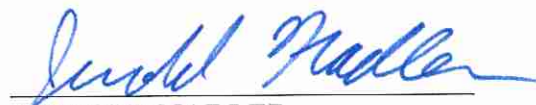
¹⁴ Tami Abdollah and Stephen Braun, *Trump Org Says It Donated \$151,470 in Profits to US Treasury*, US News (March 9, 2018), available at <https://www.usnews.com/news/business/articles/2018-03-09/trump-org-says-it-donated-151-470-in-profits-to-us-treasury>.

- a. Of those properties, did any generate revenue, in whole or in part, from foreign government patronage? If so, please identify the specific property and the foreign government patron.
 - b. Using the methodology outlined in The Trump Organization's "Donation of Profits from Foreign Government Patronage Policy," what revenue was derived from the foreign government patrons at the properties identified above?
 - c. Was any of that revenue derived from foreign government patronage donated to the United States Treasury in 2017?
3. Press reports indicate that, in 2018, there has been significant foreign government patronage at the Trump International Hotel in Washington, D.C., the Trump International Hotel & Tower in New York City and in Chicago, and Mar-a-Lago in Palm Beach, Florida.
- a. What percentage of the revenue at these Trump Organization properties can be attributed to foreign government patronage? Please identify the specific property; the foreign government patron; and the amount of revenue generated from each foreign government.
 - b. Are there other Trump Organization properties that have derived revenue from foreign government patronage? Please identify the specific property; the foreign government patron; and the revenue generated per foreign government patron.
 - c. What percentage of that revenue does The Trump Organization intend or expect to donate to the United States Treasury?

This is an urgent and important matter, and we respectfully ask that you provide answers to my questions as soon as possible, and in no event later than by close of business on November 1, 2018. Please contact Sam Simon at Sam_Simon@judiciary-dem.senate.gov or 202-224-6724 with any questions. Thank you in advance for your timely and thorough response.

Sincerely,


RICHARD BLUMENTHAL
United States Senate


JERROLD NADLER
Member of Congress