

MARK STEVEN KIRK  
10TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

COMMITTEE ON  
APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES:  
STATE, FOREIGN OPERATIONS, AND  
RELATED AGENCIES

HOMELAND SECURITY

FINANCIAL SERVICES AND  
GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-1310

WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
1030 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-4835  
FAX: (202) 225-0837  
www.house.gov/kirk

NORTHBROOK OFFICE:  
707 SKOKIE BLVD, SUITE 350  
NORTHBROOK, IL 60062  
(847) 940-0202  
FAX: (847) 940-7143

WAUKEGAN OFFICE:  
20 SOUTH MARTIN LUTHER KING DRIVE  
WAUKEGAN, IL 60085  
(847) 662-0101  
FAX: (847) 662-7519

March 15, 2010

The Honorable Rajiv Shah  
Administrator  
U.S. Agency for International Development  
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20523

The Honorable Hillary Clinton  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Administrator Shah and Secretary Clinton:

I write to seek an explanation for the continuous delays by USAID and the State Department in implementing the Partner Vetting System (PVS), a critical effort to ensure that US taxpayer dollars are not diverted to support terrorist entities or individuals associated with terrorism. Announced over two years ago, in July 2007, the PVS has still not been realized.

As you know, Deputy Secretary Jacob Lew reaffirmed his commitment to the PVS when he testified before the State and Foreign Operations subcommittee on May 13, 2009, indicating to me that "it is our intent for it to become final." Similarly, the latest USAID Office of Inspector General report to Congress underscores USAID's commitment to PVS and states that the "implementation plan is expected to be undertaken early in FY 2010." We are now rapidly approaching the middle of the fiscal year.

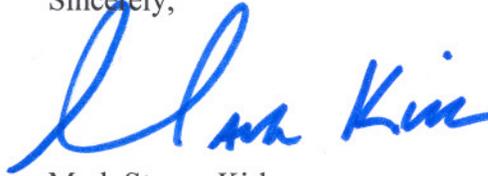
Furthermore, the FY2010 Consolidated Appropriations Act (H.R. 3288), signed into law on December 16, 2009, mandates that "the Secretary of State and the USAID Administrator shall jointly consult with the Committees on Appropriations not later than 90 days" regarding the status of the PVS.

When Dr. Shah testified before my subcommittee on March 4, 2010, he assured me that such a briefing would occur on March 16, 2010. As I have now been informed, neither USAID nor the State Department have plans to brief the committee on that date, either at member or staff level, but rather to conduct an internal meeting between the two agencies regarding the implementation of the PVS pilot program.

As required by law, I request that you brief the committee on your joint efforts to implement the PVS **no later than by Friday, March 19.**

I look forward to your immediate response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Kirk". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mark" and the last name "Kirk" clearly legible.

Mark Steven Kirk  
Member of Congress