

USIP Firings

Dear Secretary Rubio:

We are writing to express our deep concerns and objections regarding the Trump Administration's Friday night firing of employees at the United States Institute of Peace (USIP) and its broader efforts to dismantle this essential organization. As an institution devoted to advancing peacebuilding, conflict resolution, and international diplomacy, USIP has played a critical role in fostering global stability and promoting the values of democracy, human rights, and justice. Elon Musk's recent moves to undermine this vital organization are deeply troubling and have the potential to jeopardize the progress that USIP has made in these areas.

Created by Congress in 1984, USIP is a private, nonprofit think tank whose mission supports research, policy analysis, education, and training on international peace and conflict resolution. USIP's work is indispensable to addressing the most pressing challenges of our time, including violent conflict, fragile states, and humanitarian crises. The loss of experienced and dedicated professionals within the organization weakens our nation's ability to respond effectively to global peacebuilding efforts. Furthermore, dismantling such a vital organization sends the troubling message that we are no longer committed to peace and diplomacy.

This is another attempt by the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) to further implement inefficiency, and streamline unauthorized executive power, which will only weaken our global standing. As a private, nonprofit, Musk and President Trump do not have the authority to shut down USIP, an organization created and funded partially by Congress. USIP has nearly an \$80 million endowment from private donors, has its own building on land authorized for use by Congress, and its workers are not federal employees.

We urge you to combat these efforts to dismantle USIP and prevent irreversible damage from occurring. The Administration cannot unilaterally modify USIP's mandate, structure, or budget without Congress. Congress must be involved in decisions about the organization's future. Peacebuilding and diplomacy should remain at the forefront of U.S. foreign policy, and USIP must be allowed to continue its vital work without political interference.

Sincerely,