

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 608

Impeaching Antony John Blinken, Secretary of State, for high crimes and misdemeanors.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 27, 2021

Mr. NORMAN (for himself and Mr. HARRIS) submitted the following resolution;
which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

RESOLUTION

Impeaching Antony John Blinken, Secretary of State, for
high crimes and misdemeanors.

1 *Resolved*, That Antony John Blinken, Secretary of
2 State, is impeached for high crimes and misdemeanors and
3 that the following articles of impeachment be exhibited to
4 the United States Senate:

5 Articles of impeachment exhibited by the House of
6 Representatives of the United States of America in the
7 name of itself and of the people of the United States of
8 America, against Antony John Blinken, Secretary of
9 State, in maintenance and support of its impeachment
10 against him for high crimes and misdemeanors.

ARTICLE I

1

2 Antony John Blinken, in his conduct while Secretary
3 of State, engaged in a pattern of conduct that is incompat-
4 ible with his duties as an Officer of the United States,
5 as follows:

6 Secretary Blinken took an oath to defend and secure
7 our country and uphold the Constitution when he was
8 sworn in as Secretary of State on January 26, 2021. Arti-
9 cle II of the United States Constitution tasks the executive
10 branch with ensuring the laws passed by Congress and
11 signed into law by the President are faithfully executed.

12 Secretary Blinken has failed to faithfully uphold his
13 oath and has instead presided over a reckless abandon-
14 ment of our Nation's interests, security, and values in his
15 role in the withdrawal of American forces and diplomatic
16 assets from Afghanistan.

17 On April 14, 2021, President Biden announced that
18 all United States troops will begin withdrawing from Af-
19 ghanistan starting May 1, 2021, and that the removal of
20 troops would be completed by September 11, 2021.

21 On April 24, 2021, Pentagon officials, national secu-
22 rity advisers, and Secretary Blinken, in a meeting with
23 President Biden at the White House, indicated their belief
24 that they could withdraw the remaining 3,500 American
25 troops from Afghanistan by July 4, 2021.

1 During this same meeting, it was reported that the
2 State Department articulated its ability and intention to
3 keep the American Embassy in Kabul open and oper-
4 ational with more than 1,400 Americans remaining in
5 country.

6 On April 27, 2021, in apparent acknowledgment of
7 the dangers posed by a resurgent Taliban, the American
8 Embassy in Kabul ordered nearly 3,000 members of its
9 staff to depart.

10 On May 11, 2021, the Taliban—in furtherance of its
11 speedy and sweeping campaign to recapture control of
12 much of Afghanistan—captured the Nerkh district imme-
13 diately adjacent to Kabul.

14 On May 15, 2021, Embassy officials sent an urgent
15 warning to remaining Americans in the country that the
16 “U.S. Embassy strongly suggests that U.S. citizens make
17 plans to leave Afghanistan as soon as possible.”.

18 On July 2, 2021, the American military vacated
19 Bagram Air Base—the central United States military post
20 in the country, including the prison on site housing over
21 5,000 Taliban and suspected terrorist prisoners. The
22 hasty evacuation left these prisoners as well as significant
23 stockpiles of American weapons and equipment unguarded
24 resulting in the eventual liberation of prisoners and sei-
25 zure of weapons and equipment by Taliban forces. On July

1 8, 2021, President Biden stated “there’s going to be no
2 circumstance where you see people being lifted off the roof
3 of an embassy of the United States from Afghanistan. It
4 is not at all comparable.”.

5 On August 12, 2021, State Department spokesman,
6 Ned Price, serving under the authority of Secretary
7 Blinken stated “The embassy remains open, and we plan
8 to continue our diplomatic work in Afghanistan.”. Ross
9 Wilson, the acting United States ambassador to Afghani-
10 stan who was on the call, said the staff still needed 72
11 hours to leave.

12 On August 15, 2021, the American Flag at the
13 United States Embassy in Kabul was taken down.

14 On August 15, 2021, Kabul and the Green Zone—
15 the heart of the American diplomatic presence in Afghani-
16 stan—was recaptured by the Taliban and remains under
17 its control.

18 On August 25, 2021, American citizens were still at-
19 tempting to navigate through Taliban blockades, and
20 widespread chaos on the streets of Kabul to Hamid Karzai
21 International Airport in order to leave Afghanistan.

22 On August 26, 2021, Secretary Blinken’s failure to
23 execute his duties to safely and efficiently evacuate of all
24 United States government personnel, dependents, and pri-
25 vate United States citizens when their lives are in danger

1 directly gave rise to a dangerous scenario at the Kabul
2 airport enabling terrorists to execute a deadly attack that
3 killed eleven marines and a Navy medic and further under-
4 mined his abilities to execute his duties under 22 U.S.C.
5 4802(b).

6 Secretary Blinken's actions, including ignoring crit-
7 ical intelligence received from the embassy in Kabul and
8 United States intelligence agencies, have left American
9 property, military equipment and weapons in the hands
10 of enemies of the United States, left American citizens
11 stranded in life threatening situations in dereliction of his
12 duties as Secretary of State (22 U.S.C. 2715; 22 U.S.C.
13 4802). These actions have eroded American interests and
14 security as well as our credibility and relationships
15 amongst our closest allies. In failing to uphold his respon-
16 sibilities of his office, Secretary Blinken has failed to en-
17 sure the protection of the United States Government to
18 American citizens, property, and interests in foreign coun-
19 tries.

20 Wherefore, Antony John Blinken, by such conduct,
21 warrants impeachment and trial, and removal from office.

22 ARTICLE II

23 Antony John Blinken, in his conduct while Secretary
24 of State, engaged in a pattern of conduct that is incompat-
25 ible with his duties as an Officer of the United States,
26 as follows:

1 On August 10, 2021, as the crisis in Afghanistan was
2 evident and worsening, Secretary Blinken’s spokesman,
3 Ned Price, stated that “the United States continues to
4 have leverage . . . and the Afghan Government has tre-
5 mendous leverage.”. An assertion now proven obviously er-
6 roneous constituting the provision of false information to
7 the Congress and American citizens.

8 On August 15, 2021, the Taliban captured Kabul,
9 the capital of Afghanistan. Over one week later, on August
10 25, 2021, Secretary Blinken gave his first public briefing
11 or interview since the collapse of Afghanistan. This is in
12 direct violation of his statutory duty to keep the Com-
13 mittee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Com-
14 mittee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives
15 fully and currently informed with respect to all activities
16 and responsibilities within the jurisdiction of these com-
17 mittees (22 U.S.C. 2680(b)).

18 On July 13, 2021, nearly two dozen American dip-
19 lomats, still remaining in the Kabul embassy, sent a memo
20 directly to Secretary Blinken through the State Depart-
21 ment’s “dissent” channel. The cable, first reported by the
22 Wall Street Journal on August 19, 2021, urged that evac-
23 uation flights for Afghans begin in two weeks and that
24 the administration move faster to register them for visas.

1 Five days prior to Secretary Blinken receiving the
2 cable through the dissent channel from Kabul, President
3 Biden stated that the Afghan Government was unlikely
4 to fall and there would be no chaotic evacuations of Ameri-
5 cans similar to the end of Vietnam. Upon receiving the
6 dissent cable from the Embassy, Secretary Blinken had
7 a moral duty and was statutorily obligated to inform the
8 Congress and American public (22 U.S.C. 2680(b)) that
9 President Biden's remarks needed to be clarified to pre-
10 vent any confusion at home and abroad.

11 Throughout the month of July and into August, prior
12 to the collapse of the Afghan Government, the United
13 States Intelligence Community warned President Biden
14 and his top advisors, including Secretary Blinken, that the
15 situation in Afghanistan was worsening, the Afghan mili-
16 tary was ill-prepared to deal with the Taliban, and a pre-
17 emptive removal of American troops was ill-advised.

18 In direct conflict with the intelligence and advice pro-
19 vided by his own diplomats and the intelligence commu-
20 nity, Secretary Blinken failed to advise and counsel the
21 President accordingly and did not inform the Congress nor
22 American citizens at home and abroad of the dangers
23 posed by the advancing Taliban of which he was explicitly
24 aware.

1 As a result, the Afghan Government collapsed in the
2 month of August 2021 and American forces have been
3 struggling to retrieve American civilians and allies, and
4 a humanitarian crisis has erupted at Hamid Karzai Air-
5 port in Kabul. Secretary Blinken has not informed the
6 American public nor Congress of what actions will be
7 taken to ensure the safety of all Americans and American
8 allies in Afghanistan.

9 Wherefore, Antony John Blinken, by such conduct,
10 warrants impeachment and trial, and removal from office.

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