

# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6225

June 14, 2018

His Excellency Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah  
Ambassador to the United States  
Embassy of the State of Kuwait  
2940 Tilden Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20008

Your Excellency:

I am writing to request information about transactions involving your government and the Trump Organization. As you know, President Trump has refused to completely divest from his business interests or place them in a blind trust, which creates the potential for conflicts of interest that may lead him to put his own financial interests above those of the U.S. government and the American people. Our founding fathers had this concern in mind when they wrote Article I, Section 9, Clause 8 of the United States Constitution, which prohibits federal officeholders from accepting emoluments from foreign states without first obtaining the affirmative consent of Congress.

The event I am requesting information about occurred at Trump International Hotel in Washington, D.C. on February 22, 2017 to celebrate Kuwait's independence from British rule. Press accounts indicate that this event was originally scheduled to take place at the Four Seasons in Washington, D.C, before the location was changed to the Trump International Hotel. To assist the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in its oversight responsibilities, I would greatly appreciate it if you could provide the Committee the following information:

- What is your government's usual procurement process for hosting events at hotels or other venues in Washington, D.C.? Was that process followed for the February 2017 event?
- Why was the event's location changed from the Four Seasons to the Trump International Hotel? Were other hotels or venues considered for the event? If so, which ones?
- Did other hotels or venues submit bids for the event? If so, how much did they bid?
- Was your government encouraged or advised to select this venue by any U.S. organizations or individuals, including but not limited to those providing lobbying or advisory services, or any U.S. government officials or employees of the Trump Organization?
- Did anyone from the U.S. government discuss the Trump Organization venue with officials from your government before it was selected for the visit? If so, please provide details of these discussions.

- How much did the Trump International Hotel charge for the event? Please include detailed billing information, such as a breakdown of costs for food, beverages, service, etc.
- When did the Trump International Hotel submit its invoice and when was payment made?

I respectfully request that you provide this information to the Committee no later than July 11, 2018. Please do not hesitate to contact my office if you have any questions or require any information about this request. Thank you for your attention to this matter and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert Menendez". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a prominent initial "R" and a long, sweeping underline.

Robert Menendez  
Ranking Member