

Chuck Grassley

I, Senator Charles E. Grassley

Intend to object to the nomination of: _____

Samantha Power, to be the Director of the United
States Agency for International Development.

(PN 114) dated April 20, 2021

I will submit a copy of this notice to the
Legislative Clerk and the Congressional
Record within 2 session days and I give my
permission to the objecting Senator to object
in my name.

-----To Be Completed by Legislative Clerk-----

Date Received by Legislative Clerk _____.

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

April 20, 2021

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Leader McConnell:

I request to be notified before any unanimous consent agreement is agreed to regarding the nomination of Samantha Power to be Director of the United States Agency for International Development (PN114). This request is intended to be made publicly and will be disclosed in the Congressional Record so my name need not be withheld.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary

Statement of Senator Charles E. Grassley
Before the United States Senate
April 21, 2021

Mr. President,

I intend to object to any unanimous consent request relating to the nomination of Samantha Power to be director of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) (PN 114).

Throughout the 116th Congress, I conducted an investigation that found that a non-profit organization transferred funds to an entity known as the Islamic Relief Agency (ISRA). This entity had been sanctioned by the Treasury Department for helping funnel funds to terrorists and terrorist organizations including Osama Bin Laden. During this investigation we came across redacted State Department emails that imply that, while she was Ambassador to the United Nations, Samantha Power worked through back channels to trigger a Treasury review of ISRA's sanctioned status in an effort to have them delisted.

In an effort to have these emails un-redacted and better understand Ms. Power's involvement in what could be an alarming abuse of power, I sent a letter to Ms. Power and USAID requesting information on February 18, 2021. Ms. Power responded to my letter on March 23, 2021, the date of her committee hearing, but failed to answer the questions or provide the un-redacted versions of these emails. On March 31, 2021, I sent a second letter to Ms. Power urging her to fully respond to my initial letter. I have yet to receive a response.

Unfortunately, due to Ms. Power's lack of transparency, I must object to any consideration of this nomination. I cannot in good conscience vote for Ms. Power until I have received a full response to the questions posed in my letter, reviewed the un-redacted versions of these emails, and confirmed that she did not attempt to utilize her office to delist ISRA through back channels.

