
Overview of House Oversight DOGE Subcommittee Foreign Aid Hearing

Below is an overview of the hearing on foreign aid held by the House Committee on Oversight's Subcommittee on Delivering on Government Efficiency (DOGE) Subcommittee last week.

The contentious two-hour session marked the second public hearing held by the Subcommittee since its formation. The full video of the February 26 hearing is available for viewing [here](#).

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Committee Members

- **Majority (Republican)**
 - Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene (GA-14) (Chairwoman)
 - Rep. Michael Cloud (TX-27)
 - Rep. Pat Fallon (TX-04)
 - Rep. William Timmons (SC-04)
 - Rep. Tim Burchett (TN-02)
 - Rep. Eric Burlison (MO-07)
 - Rep. Brian Jack (GA-03)
 - Rep. Brandon Gill (TX-26)
- **Minority (Democrat)**
 - Rep. Melanie Stansbury (NM-01) (Ranking Member)
 - Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton (DC-At Large)
 - Rep. Stephen Lynch (MA-08)
 - Rep. Robert Garcia (CA-42)
 - Rep. Greg Casar (TX-35)
 - Rep. Jasmine Crockett (TX-30)

Witnesses

1. **Max Primorac** (Majority Witness)
 - Former USAID Official, Senior Research Fellow at Heritage Foundation
 - Link: [Written Testimony](#)
2. **Gregg Roman** (Majority Witness)
 - Executive Director of the Middle East Forum
 - Link: [Written Testimony](#)
3. **Tyler O'Neil** (Majority Witness)
 - Managing Editor of The Daily Signal
 - Link: [Written Testimony](#)
4. **Noam Unger** (Minority Witness)
 - Director of the Sustainable Development and Resilience Initiative at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)
 - Link: [Written Testimony](#)

Overview of Majority Committee Members

- Chairwoman Greene opened the hearing by criticizing USAID for allegedly using taxpayer dollars to support left-wing programs globally. She stated, "USAID has been transformed into an America-last, foreign aid slush fund to prop up extremist groups, implement censorship campaigns, and interfere in foreign elections to force regime change around the world."
- **Mismanagement and Lack of Oversight:** Witnesses highlighted concerns about the mismanagement of U.S. foreign aid funds. Witness Max Primorac emphasized that increased spending has not led to desired outcomes, noting, "While spending more and more money on aid, there is nevertheless more world poverty and hunger today, more political instability, and developing countries are more beholden to our adversaries."
- **Foreign Aid Supporting Adversaries:** Witness Gregg Roman discussed instances where U.S. foreign aid inadvertently benefited hostile entities. He provided examples of aid being diverted to groups that oppose U.S. interests, underscoring the need for stringent vetting processes to ensure aid reaches its intended recipients.
- **Calls for Reform:** Majority members and witnesses advocated for a reevaluation of foreign aid policies. Chairwoman Greene praised President Trump's actions to realign foreign aid with American interests and stated that the DOGE Subcommittee would support efforts to prevent the misuse of taxpayer dollars in the future.

Overview of Minority Committee Members

- Ranking Member Stansbury condemned the Trump Administration's actions to dismantle USAID. She emphasized that such actions undermine global democracy, freedom, and U.S. national security by ceding influence to adversarial nations like Russia and China.
- Rep. Norton highlighted the historical significance of USAID in promoting international development and humanitarian assistance. She expressed concern that eliminating or reducing foreign aid programs could lead to increased global instability that affect U.S. interests.
- Rep. Lynch questioned the witnesses about the potential long-term impacts of cutting foreign aid on global health initiatives, particularly in combating pandemics. He argued that reducing support for such programs could leave the U.S. more vulnerable to future health crises.
- **Strategic Value of Foreign Aid:** Witness Noam Unger underscored that foreign aid serves as a critical component of U.S. foreign policy, enhancing national security by fostering stable and prosperous societies. He stated that well-targeted aid can mitigate the root causes of conflict and extremism, thereby reducing threats.
- **Economic Benefits:** Unger highlighted the economic advantages of foreign aid, noting that aid programs often open new markets for American businesses and create opportunities for trade. By supporting economic development in recipient countries, the U.S. can establish mutually beneficial economic partnerships.
- **Recommendations for Improvement:** While advocating for the continuation of foreign aid, Unger recommended enhancing transparency and accountability measures to ensure that aid funds are used effectively. He suggested regular evaluations and audits of aid programs to assess their impact and efficiency.