

# United States Senate

September 28, 2022

Mark Zuckerberg, Chief Executive Officer  
Meta Platforms, Inc.  
1 Hacker Way  
Menlo Park, CA 94025

Dear Mr. Zuckerberg,

News reports indicate that at least one of your company's subsidiaries, Instagram, may have removed documentation of the Iranian regime's vicious attempts to crush recent peaceful protests.<sup>1</sup> This is particularly concerning given prior allegations that Iran attempted to bribe your content moderators to remove accounts that challenged or criticized the Iranian regime.<sup>2</sup> As the CEO, founder, and majority shareholder, you are ultimately responsible for Meta's actions. Please respond to the following questions no later than October 3, 2022:

1. Did Instagram or any other Meta company (including Whatsapp) remove any images or videos of the protests or restrict accounts sharing information about the protests?
  - a. Was any such censorship conducted at the request of the Iranian government?
2. Have any employees of Meta or its subcontractors received or accepted bribes or other payments from any representative or proxy of the Iranian government?
3. Did anyone in your organization or any third-party content moderator responsible for removing information about the protests receive any bribes or other payments from Iranian intelligence services?
4. Is it the official position of Meta or any of its subsidiaries to support or cooperate with dictatorships and violent extremist regimes?
5. What specific steps are you taking to reestablish the accounts that were deleted or disabled during the ongoing protests?
6. What specific steps are you taking to ensure that protestors in Iran continue to have access to your products as they showcase the truth about the Iranian regime?

I look forward to your prompt and detailed responses.

Sincerely,



Tom Cotton  
United States Senator

<sup>1</sup> *Instagram Removes Iranian Protest Videos, TV Station Says*, Radio Free Europe (Sept. 21, 2022), <https://www.rferl.org/a/iran-instagram-removes-protest-videos-amini/32044798.html>.

<sup>2</sup> Parham Ghobadi, *Instagram moderators say Iran offered them bribes to remove accounts*, BBC Persian, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-61516126>.