



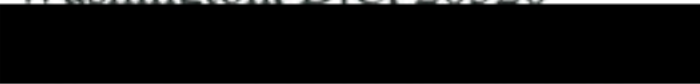
January 28, 2020

VIA EMAIL



The Honorable Michael R. Pompeo
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C, 20520

Marik String
Acting Legal Advisor
Office of the Legal Advisor
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, N.W
HST, Room 6421
Washington, D.C. 20520



Re: Removal of Michele Kelemen as the radio pool reporter for Secretary Pompeo's
January 29, 2020 trip

Dear Secretary Pompeo and Mr. String:

We write on behalf of National Public Radio, Inc. and its Diplomatic Correspondent, Michele Kelemen (collectively, "NPR"). On Sunday, January 26, 2020, a representative from the U.S. Department of State ("State Department") informed Ms. Kelemen that she will no longer be permitted to travel with you, Secretary Pompeo, as the radio pool reporter during your official trip to Europe and Central Asia from January 29 through February 4, 2020 (the "Trip"). We write to ask the State Department promptly: (1) to confirm whether the State Department has, in fact, made the decision to remove Ms. Kelemen as the radio pool reporter for the Trip and to clarify whether the State Department will be excluding her or any other NPR reporters from accompanying Secretary Pompeo on future official trips¹; (2) to explain the State Department's any justification for, and to provide any documentation concerning, that decision; and (3) if you have, in fact, made that decision, to reverse that decision and permit Ms. Kelemen to join the Trip.

¹ Nancy Barnes sent an email to Morgan Ortagus requesting clarification on those two issues. We have not heard anything back.

Below are the facts as we understand them:

- On January 9, 2020, the State Department Correspondents' Association ("SDCA") designated Ms. Kelemen as the radio pool reporter for the Trip. On Thursday, January 23, 2020, at 1:30 p.m., Ms. Kelemen received an email from the State Department press office directed to "Journalists traveling with Secretary Pompeo to" Europe and Central Asia.²
- Ms. Kelemen provided the State Department all necessary paperwork to join the Trip, which the State Department representative confirmed in an email Thursday, January 23, 2020, at 5:31 p.m., stating: "Thanks for getting everything together."
- As of Friday, January 24, 2020, at 3:27 p.m., when Ms. Kelemen received an email from the State Department press office about hotels for the Trip, Ms. Kelemen was still scheduled to travel on the Trip.
- At 5:06 p.m. that same day, NPR aired on its afternoon news magazine, *All Things Considered*, co-host Mary Louise Kelly's interview with you, Secretary Pompeo, in which you objected to Ms. Kelly's questions about Ukraine. On Saturday, January 25, 2020, the State Department issued a statement criticizing Ms. Kelly for her interview and her description of Secretary Pompeo's comments following the formal interview.
- On Sunday, January 26, 2020, a State Department representative informed Ms. Kelemen and the SDCA that Ms. Kelemen had been removed from the Trip.

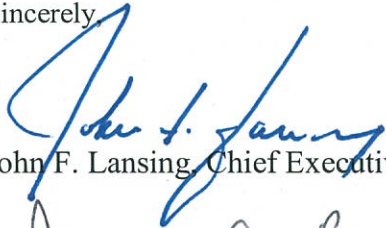
With those facts in mind, we ask you to confirm promptly whether the State Department has removed Ms. Kelemen from serving as the radio pool reporter for the Trip. If, in fact, the State Department has removed her from the Trip, we ask that you immediately reverse that decision and permit Ms. Kelemen to join her press colleagues on the Trip. We also ask that you promptly: (1) explain the State Department's justification, if any, for that decision; (2) provide us copies of any State Department policies or procedures that apply to selection or treatment of pool reporters; and (3) provide any State Department correspondence or documents reflecting deliberations concerning its decision to remove Ms. Kelemen.

The SDCA's statement, released January 27, 2020, states that "[t]he removal of Michele, who was in rotation as the radio pool reporter, comes days after Secretary Pompeo harshly criticized the work of an NPR host" and that the SDCA "can only conclude that the State Department is retaliating against National Public Radio as a result of this exchange." By this letter, we are providing you an opportunity both to explain and reverse any decision to remove Ms. Kelemen as the radio pool reporter for the Trip. If we do not receive a satisfactory response from you justifying this decision before tomorrow, when the Trip is scheduled to depart, we, like the

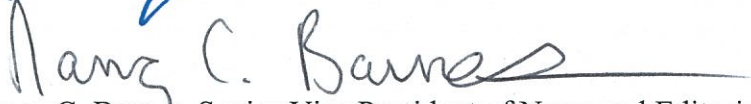
² Emails referenced in this letter will be provided to you (in case you do not have ready access to them) separately because they contain non-public details about the Trip.

SDCA, will have no choice but to conclude that Ms. Kelemen was removed from the Trip in retaliation for the content of NPR's reporting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John F. Lansing". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

John F. Lansing, Chief Executive Officer and President, NPR

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nancy C. Barnes". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Nancy C. Barnes, Senior Vice President of News and Editorial Director, NPR

cc: Jonathan D. Hart, Chief Legal Officer
Ashley Messenger, Senior Associate General Counsel