



Written by [Larry Elder](#) on February 10, 2022

A Tale of Top IS Leaders Killed Under Two Administrations

When President Donald Trump, in October 2019, ordered a successful takedown of top Islamic State group leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, Democrats and even the anti-Trump media celebrated the death of the terror leader. But top leaders of the Democratic party still chastised Trump for failing to notify top congressional Democrats of the impending strike.

Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi issued the following statement: “The House must be briefed on this raid, which the Russians but not top congressional leadership were notified of in advance, and on the administration’s overall strategy in the region. Our military and allies deserve strong, smart and strategic leadership from Washington.”



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Trump did inform two Republican leaders of the strike, but admitted he completely excluded Democrats, including Pelosi. As to informing Pelosi, Trump said: “No, I didn’t. I didn’t do that. I wanted to make sure this kept secret. I don’t want to have men lost, and women. I don’t want to have people lost.” He also said: “(I was) going to notify (congressional leaders) last night, but we decided not to do that, because Washington leaks like I’ve never seen before. Washington is a leaking machine. And I told my people, we will not notify them until our great people are out — not just in, but out. I don’t want to have them greeted with firepower like you wouldn’t believe.”

House Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam B. Schiff, D-Calif., called Trump’s lack of notice “a mistake.” Schiff said, “In terms of notifying the Gang of Eight, that wasn’t done,” referring to the leaders of both parties in the House, the Senate and their Intelligence Committees.

And according to former National Security Adviser Susan Rice, Trump also broke protocol by not informing his predecessor of the elimination of this ISIS leader. Rice said: “There is a tradition of common courtesy of presidents informing their predecessors of things of significance like this. Since the White House seemingly didn’t feel it necessary to inform the leadership of the intelligence committees on a bipartisan basis, I’m quite confident that they didn’t do the normal protocol with respect to predecessors either.”

That was then.

Last week President Joe Biden ordered a strike that killed al-Baghdadi’s successor, Abu Ibrahim al-Hashimi al-Qurayshi.

Did Biden, pre-strike, notify top congressional leaders or give former President Donald Trump an advance warning? The same Democrats who criticized Trump said nothing about whether they received notice of the strike. But it appears that Biden, like Trump, kept House intelligence leaders in the dark. The *Washington Post* wrote: “A House Intelligence committee official, speaking on the condition of



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anonymity to discuss sensitive matters, said Thursday that the committee was not notified before the Syria mission 'and will ask for additional information from the administration on that decision.'" What about Pelosi? The *Post* said: "Gen. Mark A. Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, called House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., on Thursday morning to inform her about the Syria mission, according to Pelosi spokesman Drew Hammill. It is unclear whether Milley's call to Pelosi came before or after the strike."

Whether Pelosi received notification before or *after* the strike, given her criticism of Trump, seems awfully relevant. But Dems and the media appear blasé about the difference.

Did Biden, like Trump, worry about leaks from congressional intel leaders, *including Democrats* like Pelosi and Schiff? Did Biden, like Trump, fail to follow what Rice called "the tradition of common courtesy" by notifying his predecessor, the man the Biden administration calls "the former president," of the impending strike against the IS leader?

Who knows? And it appears than neither Democratic intel leaders nor the pro-Biden media care to find out or even to ask. Oh, what a difference a Democratic administration makes.

Larry Elder is a bestselling author and nationally syndicated radio talk show host. His latest book, The New Trump Standard, is available in paperback from Amazon.com and for Nook, Kindle, iBooks and Google Play. To find out more about Larry Elder, or become an "Elderado," visit www.LarryElder.com. Follow Larry on Twitter @LarryElder. To read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate website at www.creators.com.

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