

August 2, 2022

Undersecretary Bass and Director General Bernicat,

It has come to the attention of the Union there is a Foreign Service Officer named Fritz Berggren working at SA-9. Apparently, Mr. Berggren runs a website called BloodAndFaith.com that frequently assails members of the Jewish faith, the LGBTQ+ community, people of color, and argues that the United States should be a "Christian nation-state".

The Union has been shocked to learn management has been aware of this for over a year and has done absolutely nothing. AFGE Local 1534 DEMANDS this employee be removed from Department of State premises immediately. This individual is clearly an insider threat risk and may pose a danger to employees. There is also a serious problem if he has actually gotten the required clearance from Public Affairs for his hate speech blog and radical views. Why was this not flagged during his background investigation?

The Union believes this person represents a clear and present danger to our employees. We have all seen on the news how members of the Jewish faith, people of color, and members of the LGBTQ+ have been murdered at work and on the street by fanatics holding radical views. There is no excuse for the Department to allow this man to continue to pose a threat to our employees domestically or overseas.

The Civil Servants and Foreign Service individuals that work in the Department of State are hardworking patriotic Americans from different races, religions, political views, and sexual orientation. The mission statement of the U.S. Department of State is: "To Promote U.S. Security, Prosperity, and Democratic Values, and Shape an International Environment in Which All Americans Can Thrive." Mr. Berggren's extreme radical views are completely opposite of what the Department of State stands for and strives to be.

Mr. Berggren obviously supports none of these values or the mission of the Department. He has violated the oath he took when he became a federal employee, and his dangerous and radical views are not consistent with the mission and values of the Department and the people who work here. He is a direct security threat, a possible danger to employees and an embarrassment as a Foreign Service Officer.

AFGE Local 1534 DEMANDS Mr. Fritz Berggren be removed from Department of State facilities immediately and an investigation be conducted by Diplomatic Security and the Office of Inspector General concerning this matter.

**Chris Barnes** 

First Vice President

AFGE Local 1534

U.S. Department of State.