

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 21, 2019

Tim Cook
Chief Executive Officer
Apple
One Apple Park Way
Cupertino, CA 95014

Sundar Pichai
Chief Executive Officer
Google
1600 Amphitheater Parkway
Mountain View, CA 94043

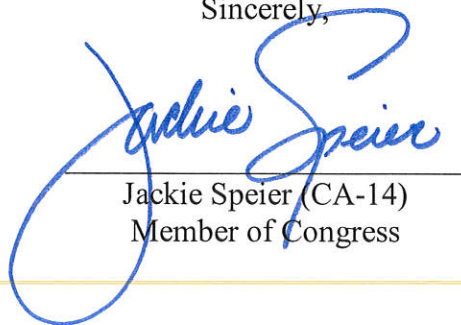
Dear Mr. Cook and Mr. Pichai:

By now you have been informed that your app stores currently offer a mobile app for the Saudi Ministry of Interior's website *Absher*. Though the app allows millions of users to perform a variety of routine functions, we are writing to express our alarm over the app's features which prevent the free movement of Saudi women and migrant workers. By sending a text notifying a male "guardian" when a woman's national identification card or passport is used at an airport, the app serves as tracking device. In a few publicized cases, women fleeing persecution in Saudi Arabia had to defeat this application to leave the country and seek asylum.

Beyond facilitating harm to the human rights of Saudi women, the app allows Saudi men to constrain the movements of migrant laborers working for them. Human Rights Watch has documented abuse and exploitation of migrant domestic workers in Saudi Arabia, some of which amounts to forced labor, trafficking, or slavery-like conditions. With a few taps of his finger on an app offered on your companies' app stores, a Saudi man can exert near total control over the livelihood of these vulnerable migrant workers.

The ingenuity of American technology companies should not be perverted to violate the human rights of Saudi women. Twenty first century innovations should not perpetuate sixteenth century tyranny. Keeping this application in your stores allows your companies and your American employees to be accomplices in the oppression of Saudi Arabian women and migrant workers. We ask that your companies remove *Absher* from your app stores. We look forward to a response from both of you on your companies' next steps by February 28, 2019.

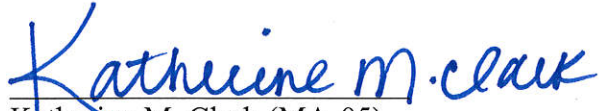
Sincerely,



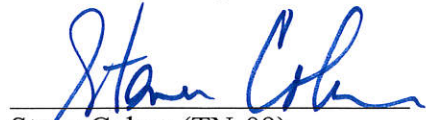
Jackie Speier (CA-14)
Member of Congress



Donald S. Beyer Jr. (VA-08)
Member of Congress



Katherine M. Clark (MA-05)
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen (TN-09)
Member of Congress



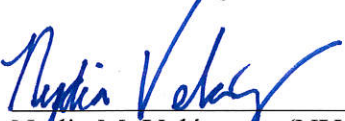
Henry "Hank" C. Johnson Jr. (GA-04)
Member of Congress



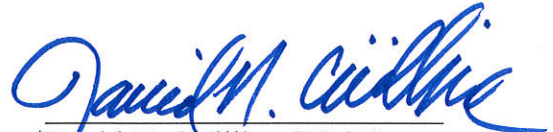
Jan Schakowsky (IL-09)
Member of Congress



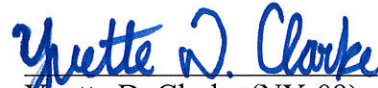
Rashida Tlaib (MI-13)
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez (NY-07)
Member of Congress



David N. Cicilline (RI-01)
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke (NY-09)
Member of Congress



Jim Cooper (TN-05)
Member of Congress



Ilhan Omar (MN-05)
Member of Congress



Brad Sherman (CA-30)
Member of Congress



David Trone (MD-06)
Member of Congress