

# Liz Cheney blasts WHO's Tedros as Chinese Communist Party 'puppet' who 'absolutely must go'

WHO director-general faces rising criticism for novel coronavirus response.



In this Feb. 24, 2020, photo, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, director-general of the World Health Organization (WHO), addresses a press conference about the update on COVID-19 at the World Health Organization headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. Taiwan's foreign ministry on Thursday, April 8, 2020, strongly protested accusations from the head of the World Health Organization that it condoned racist personal attacks on him that he alleged were coming from the self-governing island democracy. (Salvatore Di Nolfi/Keystone via AP) **\*\*FILE\*\***

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House Republican Conference Chair Liz Cheney said Thursday that the World Health Organization head "absolutely should go," arguing that having a Chinese Communist Party "puppet" in charge is "costing lives around the world."

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus has come under heavy U.S.

criticism for his response to the coronavirus pandemic, including from President Trump, who threatened Tuesday to cut off U.S. funding to the UN agency.

“[W]e’re in a situation where having somebody who is a puppet of the Chinese Communist Party running the WHO is costing lives around the world,” Ms. Cheney told conservative radio host Hugh Hewitt in a transcript. “And in order for that organization to play anywhere near the role we need it to play, it needs a new director, certainly.”

Mr. Tedros, an Ethiopian microbiologist who holds a doctorate in community health, pushed back Wednesday against those “politicizing this virus,” saying, “If you don’t want any more body bags, then you refrain from politicizing it.”

Sen. Martha McSally, Arizona Republican, called last week for Mr. Tedros to resign, while Sen. Rick Scott, Florida Republican, said Congress should investigate when it returns the WHO response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Critics have cited WHO’s Jan. 14 statement saying that initial investigations “conducted by the Chinese authorities have found no clear evidence of human-to-human transmission,” despite evidence from Taiwanese researchers indicating otherwise.

Ms. Cheney cited WHO’s pushback on travel bans after Mr. Trump imposed travel restrictions on China in late January.

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