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June 4, 2008

The Honorable Harley Lappin
Director
Federal Bureau of Prisons
U.S. Department of Justice
320 First Street, NW, Room 642
Washington, DC 20534

Dear Mr. Lappin,

I would like to know if the Federal Bureau of Prisons has reexamined its chaplain approval process since the arrest and conviction of Abdurahman Alamoudi. As you may know, Abdurahman Alamoudi was responsible for setting up the Muslim chaplain program for both the prison and military system, which included the Islamic groups that had the authority to certify someone to serve as a Muslim chaplain. In 2003 he was arrested and in 2004 he pled guilty to charges related to his activities in the United States and abroad with nations and organizations that had ties to terrorism.

I am deeply concerned about the radicalization process that is reportedly occurring in the United States prison system. I believe that due diligence would require a thorough examination of the approval process, including the groups that are permitted to certify chaplains and the chaplains who were appointed through the process organized by a convicted terrorist. I would specifically like to know how many Muslim chaplains have served in the Federal Prison system, as well as the time period that they have served.

I look forward to your response and to know what steps have been taken by the Federal Bureau of Prisons to ensure that the program set up by Alamoudi has not been a Trojan Horse experience that has left our chaplain corps infiltrated by people who seek to do our country harm.

Sincerely,


Sue Myrick
Member of Congress