



One Hundred Twelfth Congress
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20515

October 11, 2012

The Honorable Hillary Clinton
Secretary
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Clinton:

I am writing to urge you to expeditiously complete the State Department's investigation into the identity of the perpetrators of the September 11, 2012 terrorist attack in Benghazi, Libya and immediately thereafter designate any group deemed responsible for the attack a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO), in accordance with Section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), as amended, and to designate any such groups as Specially Designated Global Terrorist entities (SDGT) under Executive Order 13224.

As you know, news reports from the region indicate members of Ansar al-Sharia were intimately involved in the planning and execution of the attack on the U.S. consulate where four Americans, including Ambassador to Libya J. Christopher Stevens were killed. According to public reports, in the hours following the attack, U.S. intelligence agencies monitored communications from jihadists affiliated with Ansar al-Sharia and members of al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), the group's North African affiliate. The intercepts reportedly indicate that Ansar al-Sharia jihadists conspired with AQIM in the attack and acted as subordinates to mid-level AQIM members during the operation. If your investigation finds that Ansar al-Sharia played a role in the attack, I would urge its immediate designation as a FTO.

I am deeply concerned about the rapid evolution of Ansar al-Sharia from a virtually unknown organization to a full-blown jihadist terror group working with al Qaeda affiliates. Ansar al-Sharia's targeting and tactics closely reflect those of other al Qaeda affiliates that have targeted the U.S. Homeland, most notably al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) on Christmas Day 2009 and Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) in Times Square in May 2010.

Designating Ansar al-Sharia – as well as any other jihadist group found to be involved in this attack – as an FTO will ensure that the U.S. Government has every military, intelligence, diplomatic,

economic, and legal tool at its disposal to disrupt and deter Ansar al-Sharia's operations, planning, and fundraising.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this critical national security matter.

Sincerely,



PETER T. KING
Chairman

- cc: The Honorable Eric H. Holder, Jr., Attorney General of the United States
The Honorable Timothy F. Geithner, Secretary of the Treasury
The Honorable Robert S. Mueller III, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation
The Honorable Leon E. Panetta, Secretary, Department of Defense
The Honorable Janet Napolitano, Secretary, Department of Homeland Security
The Honorable James R. Clapper, Jr., Director of National Intelligence
The Honorable David H. Petraeus, Director of the Central Intelligence Agency
The Honorable Matthew G. Olsen, Director of the National Counterterrorism Center