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GOP 'doing the bidding of the gun lobby' on Fast and Furious, Brady Campaign charges

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Rep. Darrell Issa (AP photo)

Republican congressional leaders are “doing the bidding of the gun lobby” by zealously pursuing Attorney General Eric Holder over Operation Fast and Furious, a leader of national gun-control forces said this afternoon.

Brady Campaign President Dan Gross blasted the GOP leadership after House Speaker John Boehner, Majority Leader Eric Cantor, Majority Whip Kevin McCarthy and House Investigations & Oversight Committee Chairman Darrell Issa sent a letter to Attorney General Eric Holder demanding immediate answers about the botched drug-tracking operation.

“A strong whiff of hypocrisy rises from the letter sent today to Attorney General Holder by the House leadership,” Gross said in a statement released by the Brady Campaign, a leading gun-control organization. “Speaker Boehner and his colleagues pretend to be concerned about the harm Operation Fast & Furious has done to our relationship to Mexico, but they cannot explain why the House of Representatives, under their leadership, has done nothing to respond to the Mexican government’s desperate pleas for the Congress to strengthen American gun laws to stop gun trafficking from American gun shops to the Mexican drug cartels.”

The Brady Campaign is named for Jim Brady, the former press secretary to Ronald Reagan who was gravely wounded in the attempted assassination of the 40th president.

Gross blamed the GOP for standing in the way of efforts to combat the illegal smuggling of U.S. weapons to Mexican drug cartels.

“The House Republican leadership decries the failure of U.S. authorities to prevent illegal guns from crossing the border, yet the House recently voted to block an Obama administration effort to give the authorities a vital additional tool to fight trafficking of assault rifles to Mexico,” he said.

Gross said Boehner refuses to meet with victims of gun violence, even as he traveled to Florida “to meet with the leaders of the gun industry.”

“It is difficult to take seriously these attacks on Attorney General Holder from congressional leaders who show, at every turn, that they are more concerned with doing the bidding of the gun lobby than with protecting the safety of American — and Mexican — families,” declared Gross.