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One Hundred Thirteenth Congress
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Foreign Affairs

2170 Rayburn House Office Building

Washington, DC 20515

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November 21, 2013

The Honorable John Kerry
Secretary of State
Department of State
2201 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

As you know, the Committee on Foreign Affairs has been investigating the circumstances surrounding the deadly September 11-12, 2012 terrorist attacks on U.S. government facilities in Benghazi, Libya. As part of the Committee's inquiry, I am writing to request that you make available to the Committee for interview the Department of State Diplomatic Security personnel who were at the Benghazi Special Mission Compound (SMC) during the attacks.

In a letter to Congress dated last month, Assistant Secretary of State for Legislative Affairs Julia Frifield stated that the Department's reluctance to allow interviews of employees who survived the attacks was based "primarily on the Department of Justice's advice" that such interviews presented prohibitive law enforcement sensitivities.¹ In his November 14 testimony before the Senate Homeland Security Committee, however, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Director James Comey said that he had no objection to such interviews by the Congress.²

Based on this testimony, it appears that the Department of Justice does not oppose congressional access to these individuals. Further, Assistant Secretary Frifield noted in her correspondence that the Department would "continue to consider any requests from a Chairman of an oversight committee conducting an official investigation into the matter." Therefore, I respectfully request that you make available for interview by Committee staff all Diplomatic Security personnel who were present at the SMC during the attacks.

¹ Letter from Assistant Secretary of State for Legislative Affairs Julia Frifield to Sen. Lindsey Graham, October 28, 2013, available at: <http://www.scribd.com/doc/180235076/State-Department-Response-on-Benghazi-Survivors>.

² Sharyl Attkisson, "FBI Director: OK for Congress to Talk to Benghazi Survivors," *CBS News*, November 14, 2013, http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-250_162-57612447/fbi-director-ok-for-congress-to-interview-benghazi-survivors/.

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If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Ari Fridman, Counsel for Oversight and Investigations, at (202) 225-5021. Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ed Royce". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

EDWARD R. ROYCE
Chairman