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# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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STAFF DIRECTOR

November 16, 2012

The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Madam Secretary:

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is investigating the facts and circumstances surrounding the death of U.S. Ambassador to Libya J. Christopher Stevens and his colleagues on September 11, 2012. To assist with this oversight, the Committee requested documents and information from the Department of State in letters dated September 20, 2012, October 2, 2012, October 29, 2012, and November 1, 2012. Despite repeated declarations by both the President and yourself that the Administration would cooperate fully with Congressional investigations, the Department has refused to deliver copies of all requested documents and information for the Committee's retention.

Thus far, the only documents the Department has delivered to the Committee for its retention are publicly available information from its website. For responsive documents that are not in the public domain – classified and unclassified – the Department has insisted that congressional staff review that material in camera and under the supervision of Department personnel. The fact that staff must handwrite copies of unclassified material – even when that material has been openly discussed in public – is a departure from past practices and is unnecessarily impeding a thorough review and analysis of relevant information.

On November 14, 2012, President Obama stated, “I think it is important for us to find out exactly what happened in Benghazi, and I’m happy to cooperate in any ways that Congress wants. We have provided every bit of information that we have, and we will continue to provide information.”<sup>1</sup> While we disagree that all information has been provided to Congress, we are willing to accept the President’s offer for full and unconditional cooperation.

Accordingly, we ask that you immediately produce, in accordance with the President’s statement, in hard or electronic copies all documents and information requested our September 20, 2012, October 2, 2012, October 29, 2012, and November 1, 2012, letters.

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<sup>1</sup> Remarks by the President in a News Conference, The White House, November 14, 2012.

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The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is the principal oversight committee of the House of Representatives and may at "any time" investigate "any matter" as set forth in House Rule X.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions about this request, please contact Thomas Alexander or Mitchell Kominsky of the Committee Staff at 202-225-5074. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



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Darrell Issa  
Chairman



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Jason Chaffetz  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on National Security,  
Homeland Defense, and Foreign Operations

cc: The Honorable Elijah Cummings, Ranking Minority Member

The Honorable John F. Tierney, Ranking Minority Member  
Subcommittee on National Security, Homeland Defense, and Foreign Operations