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ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH CONGRESS

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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May 17, 2013

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The Honorable John F. Kerry  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is investigating the facts and circumstances surrounding the September 11-12, 2012, terrorist attacks on U.S. diplomatic facilities in Benghazi, Libya. To assist the Committee's investigation, I am writing to request that you make current and former State Department employees available for transcribed interviews. The State Department employees whose testimony the Committee is seeking are critical fact witnesses who are positioned to shed light on what happened before, during, and after the terrorist attacks that claimed the lives of four Americans in Benghazi.

On April 30, 2013, you committed to work closely with Congress to resolve outstanding questions about the Benghazi attacks. Speaking to reporters at the State Department, you stated:

The American people deserve answers. I'm determined that this will be **an accountable and open State Department**, as it has been in the past. And we will continue to do that, and **we will provide answers.**<sup>1</sup>

To date, however, the State Department's posture with respect to the congressional investigation of the Benghazi attacks has not lived up to your commitment to "provide answers." The Department continues to limit the Committee's access to relevant documents and witnesses. Witness interviews are necessary to obtain information relevant to the Committee's investigation. Moreover, the Department's repeated refusals to produce documents in a meaningful way have heightened the need for these interviews. Transcribed testimony is valuable to the fact-finding process—especially in this case, where the State Department has prevented Committee investigators from possessing key documents,<sup>2</sup> and Administration officials have threatened witnesses with adverse personnel actions.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Dana Hughes, *Obama Administration Denies Benghazi Whistleblowers Being Kept Quiet*, ABC NEWS, May 1, 2013 (emphasis added).

<sup>2</sup> See, Letter from Hon. Darrell Issa, Chairman, H. Comm. on Oversight and Gov't Reform, to Hon. John F. Kerry, Sec'y, U.S. Dep't of State (Apr. 26, 2013).

<sup>3</sup> James Rosen, *Obama administration officials threatened whistle-blowers on Benghazi, lawyer says*, FOXNEWS.COM, Apr. 29, 2013.

The Honorable John F. Kerry  
May 17, 2013  
Page 2

To assist the Committee's investigation into this matter, I request that you make current and former State Department employees available for transcribed interviews, including but not limited to:

1. David Adams
2. Eric Boswell
3. Elizabeth Dibble
4. Jeremy Freeman
5. Elizabeth Jones
6. Patrick Kennedy
7. Raymond Maxwell
8. Cheryl Mills
9. Victoria Nuland
10. Philippe Reines
11. William Roebuck
12. Wendy Sherman
13. Jacob Sullivan

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.

On April 30, 2013, you confirmed that you had tasked your Chief of Staff, David Wade, with managing requests from Congress related to Benghazi.<sup>4</sup> The Committee intends to begin interviewing witnesses the week of May 20, 2013. Please direct Mr. Wade to contact Brien Beattie or Jon Skladany of the Committee staff at (202) 225-5074 to schedule interviews as soon as possible, but no later than May 21, 2013. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Darrell Issa  
Chairman

cc: The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings, Ranking Minority Member

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<sup>4</sup> Dana Hughes, *Obama Administration Denies Benghazi Whistleblowers Being Kept Quiet*, ABC NEWS, May 1, 2013.