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February 21, 2014

By Certified Mail — Return receipt Requested Article Number 7010 3090 0000 0316 6499

FOIA REQUEST

Federal Bureau of Investigation Record/Information Dissemination Section 170 Marcel Drive Winchester, VA 22602-4843

Dear FOIA Officer:

This is a request for production of records under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 USC 552, the "FOIA."

FOIA Requesters. I write on behalf of my clients, Accuracy in Media, Inc., a District of Columbia 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation, as well as the following seven individuals, all of whom serve as members of the "Citizens' Commission on Benghazi," an unincorporated, informal association of individuals, all working with Accuracy in Media. They are (1) Roger Aronoff, (2) Larry Bailey, (3) Kenneth Benway, (4) Dick Brauer, (4) Clare Lopez, (5) James A. Lyons, Jr., (5) Kevin Shipp, and (7) Wayne Simmons.

**FOIA Requests.** These requests are for the following records of activities in Libya, in the care, custody or control of the FBI, regardless of the source of the records:

- 1. All records describing or defining the purpose, scope, jurisdiction, and power of the FBI's investigation into the Benghazi attacks, including the identity of government official(s) requesting or ordering the probe.
- 2. All records of the Bureau's findings in its investigation into the Benghazi attacks. Responsive records include those that regard (1) the identities of any non-US personnel questioned, interrogated, detained, or transported through, the Annex, (2) weapons brought into, and removed from, the Annex, as well as such weaponry's destinations including whether abandoned on September 12, 2012, (3) communication and cryptographic equipment left in the Consulate and Annex when US personnel abandoned the facilities on September 12, 2012, and (4) any probe into the meetings from January 2007 through September 2012 between Tripoli Embassy officials, including Christopher Stevens, and the individuals identified in the following Request 3 below.
- 3. All notes, memoranda, and correspondence generated between January of 2007 and September 11, 2012, regarding meetings between Christopher Stevens or any other Tripoli Embassy official, and one or more of the following individuals:
  - Ahmed Abu Khattala, a commander of the Libyan Ansar al-Shariah militia group
  - Mustafa Abdul Jalil, Chairman of the Libyan National Transitional Council from 5 March 2011-8 August 2012
  - Mahmoud Jibril, Interim Prime Minister of Libya and Chair of the Executive Board of the National Transitional Council from 5 March-23 October 2011
  - Wissam bin Hamid, a Libya Shield Brigade commander, supporter of the Libyan Muslim Brotherhood Justice & Construction Party, and veteran jihad fighter of Iraq & Afghanistan, who provided security for US representatives in Benghazi and was tentatively identified by the Library of Congress as the head of al-Qa'eda in Libya
  - Abdelhakim Belhadj (aka Abdallah al Sadeq), veteran jihad fighter of Iraq & Afghanistan, commander of the AQ franchise militia, Libyan Islamic Fighting Group (LIFG) (aka Libyan Islamic Movement for Change), post-revolution military commander of Tripoli, and Libyan delegation leader to the Syrian Free Army in late 2011
  - Ismael al-Sallabi (brother of Ali), commander of the Al-Qa'edalinked al-Sahati Brigade during the revolution, and Benghazi Military Council commander afterwards, close ally of Abdelhakim Belhadj and Mustafa Jalil

- Ali al-Sallabi (brother of Ismael), called the 'spiritual leader' of the Libyan revolution, Muslim Brotherhood links, led effort with Seif al-Qaddafi and US Embassy Tripoli to gain release of jihadi detainees from Libyan jails
- Mohammad al-Sallabi, father of Ali and Ismael, among the founders of the Libyan Muslim Brotherhood in the 1960s
- Abu Sufian bin Qumu, veteran jihad fighter in Afghanistan from Derna, Libya, captured in 2001, detained at GITMO, sent back to Libyan jail, released in 2010, led jihad vs Qaddafi in 2011, and led Benghazi Mission attack in Sep 2012.
- 4. Any other records of whatsoever nature regarding (1) the Benghazi consulate and (2) its CIA Annex, for the time period of January 1st, 2011, through September 30th, 2012. This request is all-inclusive for all records, however recorded, including emails, reports, memoranda, correspondence, teletypes, telephone calls, text messages, and audio and video recordings, regarding all uses of the Benghazi consulate and CIA Annex.
- 5. All records generated between September 11, 2012 and the present, by survivors of the September 11th and 12th attacks on the Benghazi mission and the Benghazi CIA Annex, or by any person regarding the survivors' accounts of the attack.
- 6. All calendars, day books, journals, notes, memoranda, or other records reflecting Ambassador Stevens' schedule on September 11, 2012, including the Ambassador's diary, and all correspondence to or from the Ambassador regarding his meetings that day, including with the Turkish Consul General.
- 7. All records of the purpose of Ambassador Stevens' meetings on September 11, 2012, including analysis or assessments of those meetings, whether written before or after September 11, 2012.
- 8. September 15th or 16th FBI 302 Interview Reports, and corresponding handwritten notes, of interviews conducted in Germany of United States personnel who had been in the Benghazi mission and the Benghazi CIA annex during the September 11th and 12th attacks on those facilities.

9. Records of the video teleconference on the afternoon of the September 16th, 2012, between the FBI and other IC officials in Washington, regarding FBI interviews with U.S. personnel who had been on the compounds in Benghazi during the attack. For your reference, the following is an excerpt from the December 30, 2012, Senate Committee On Homeland Security And Governmental Affairs, "Flashing Red: A Special Report On The Terrorist Attack At Benghazi:"

> On September 15th and 16th, officials from the FBI conducted face-to-face interviews in Germany of the U.S. personnel who had been on the compound in Benghazi during the attack. The U.S. personnel who were interviewed saw no indications that there had been a protest prior to the attack. Information from those interviews was shared on a secure video teleconference on the afternoon of the 16th with FBI and other IC officials in Washington; it is unclear whether the question of whether a protest took place was discussed during this video conference.

10. Complete Autopsy Reports of each of the victims of the September 11th and 12th, 2012, Benghazi attacks of the Ambassador's compound, and the CIA Annex.

Electronic Format. Kindly produce these records in electronic format. See e-FOIA amendment 5 U.S.C. § 552 (a)(3)(B), as amended, requiring Agency to "provide the record in any form or format requested . . . if the record is readily reproducible by the agency in that form or format." See generally FOIA Update Vol. XVII, No. 4, 1996.

**Request for Waiver of Search and Review Fees.** As a representatives of the news media, Accuracy in Media, Inc. ("AIM"), submits that it is entitled to a waiver of any fees associated with the search and review of records responsive to these FOIA Requests, under 5 U.S.C. § 552 (a)(4)(A)(ii)(II). AIM is organized and operated to publish or broadcast news to the public.

Upon disclosure of the records sought, AIM has concrete plans to make the information public. Its ability and intent to disseminate the information requested, is beyond question. Accuracy in Media Articles on the subject include "The MSM and Benghazi: Will Their Coverage Harm Obama Administration?," "Shameful Media Coverage of Benghazi Scandal and Cover-up," "Media Embrace Obama's Controversial Picks for National Security Team," "New York Times Attempts to Blur Benghazi Scandal," "McClatchy Reporter Changes Tune on Benghazi," "CBS in Damage Control Over Error-Filled Benghazi Report," "60 Minutes' Reveals Little New in Benghazi Exposé," "The Left's Continued Assault on the Truth About Benghazi," "Media Coverage of Benghazi Leans Toward Political Theater," "Conservative Leaders Call on

Speaker Boehner: Form a Select Committee on Benghazi," "Further Proof That Obama Knew the Truth About Benghazi," "Blaming the Victim in Benghazigate," "Obama and His Media Loyalists Still Spinning Benghazi," and "Does Navy Map Alter the Benghazi Narrative?"

Additionally, several of the individual requesters have published articles about the matter, demonstrating, *inter alia*, the background, experience, and expertise of the FOIA requesters in the subject area of the requests. See, for examples, "Navy SEAL: 'There's guilt in this administration,'" by Captain Larry Bailey, published in WND.com in April of 2013; two articles by Clare Lopez appearing in Pundicity.com in October of 2012, "Benghazi: The Set-Up and the Cover-Up," and "Did Turkey Play a Role in Benghazi Attack?;" and Admiral James Lyons' pieces appearing in the Washington Times, "Obama's Chain of Command Unravels Over Benghazi (October 2012), "Obama needs to come clean on what happened in Benghazi" (October 2012), "The Key Benghazi Questions Still Unanswered" (January 2013), "A hard slog to get Benghazi answers" (January 2013), and "A call to Courage over Benghazi" (May 2013).

AIM, as well as the individual FOIA requesters, intend to use the requested information in scholarly or other analytic work, for dissemination. Neither AIM nor the individuals identified above have any "commercial interest" that would be furthered by the disclosure of the requested information, as that term has been interpreted by the courts under 5 U.S.C. § 552 (a)(4)(A)(ii)(II).

**Public Interest Fee Waiver.** 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii) provides that "[d]ocuments shall be furnished without any charge or at a charge reduced... if disclosure of the information is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government and is not primarily in the commercial interest of the requester."

Here, the FOIA requesters do not have a commercial interest in the disclosure. Their purpose is to inform the public. The subject of the requested records concerns the operations or activities of the United States Government. The information sought is directed at finding out what information the government has about its failure to timely respond when its facilities came under attack. These FOIA Requests also concern what information the government did not provide to the public, as well as congressional investigators.

Upon disclosure of the records sought, AIM, as well as other several of the individual requesters, has concrete plans to make the information public, in accordance with AIM's news dissemination function. The information sought would be likely to contribute to an understanding of United States Government operations or activities, and disclosure will enhance public understanding of the Benghazi incident as compared with awareness prior to the disclosure. The interest of enhancing the public's understanding of the operations or activities of the U.S. Government is clear, and the records' connection to these government activities is direct.

Release of the information will contribute to an understanding of government operations or activities regarding the Benghazi issue, as compared with awareness prior to the disclosure. Thus, the requesters provide an adequate showing of their concrete plans to disseminate the requested information, and adequately demonstrate how disclosure of the requested documents meets the requirements for a public interest fee waiver.

**Reply to Accuracy in Media**. If you have any questions about handling this request, please ask via email, to <u>JohnHClarke@earthlink.net</u>. Otherwise, kindly respond, and produce records, to Accuracy in Media, 4350 East West Highway, Suite 555, Bethesda, MD 20814-4582.

What Centre

John H. Clarke

cc: Accuracy in Media, Inc. Roger Aronoff Larry Bailey Kenneth Benway Dick Brauer Clare Lopez James A. Lyons, Jr. Kevin Shipp Wayne Simmons