

President Obama Faces Showdown Over 9/11 Coverup

by Jeffrey Steinberg

April 21—Representatives Walter Jones (R-N.C.) and Stephen Lynch (D-Mass.) wrote to President Obama on April 10, demanding that he finally fulfill his promise to release the classified 28-page chapter from the 2002 Joint Congressional Inquiry into the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks. The two Members of Congress, who have both reviewed the sealed pages, wrote: “The information contained in the redacted pages is critical to U.S. foreign policy moving forward and should thus be available to the American people. Furthermore, the survivors of the 9/11 attacks and families of the victims have waited 12 years to learn all the facts concerning that tragic day. It is my hope that President Barack Obama will recognize the importance of this issue and provide these individuals with the closure that they deserve.”

On at least two separate occasions—in February 2009 and September 2011—President Obama personally promised representatives of the 9/11 families that he would declassify and release the 28 pages. But in the five years that he has served as President, he has continued to renege on that promise.

Jones and Lynch made clear that they believe that no national security damage would be caused by releasing the pages at this time. “Having read the classified information,” they wrote, “we believe that releasing it will not cause harm to U.S. intelligence sources and methods. Indeed, we consider this to be a matter of providing the American people with all the facts regarding

9/11 and bringing closure to the many individuals who lost family and friends in the attacks or survived the attacks themselves.”

The letter reminded the President that they had introduced [House Resolution 428](#), urging the release of the classified pages, and that the resolution has bipartisan support in the House and has the full endorsement of former Sen. Bob Graham (D-Fla.), who chaired the Joint inquiry and has fought for the declassification of the 28 pages ever since.

The pressure on President Obama to live up to his promise is building on other fronts as well. On April 18, Federal District Court Judge William Zloch gave the FBI until April 25 to deliver an estimated 92,000 documents on the 9/11 investigation conducted by the Sarasota, Fla., FBI office. The judge is presiding over a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) lawsuit by the *Broward Bulldog* newspaper, demanding FBI files on their investigation into Esam Ghazzawi, a Saudi national with close ties to the Saudi royal family, who hosted several of the 9/11 hijackers at his Florida home, including Mohammed Atta, the presumed leader of the terror team.

Ghazzawi, a wealthy Saudi businessman and advisor to members of the Saudi royal family, also hosted Adnan Shukrijumah, a fugitive al-Qaeda leader for whom the FBI has offered a \$5 million reward. Days before the 9/11 attacks, Ghazzawi and his family abruptly left their home in a secured gated community

and fled the United States, leaving behind cars, clothing, and almost all of their belongings. The story of the Ghazzawi links to Atta and two other 9/11 hijackers was broken by the *Broward Bulldog* in 2011, and the paper filed an FOIA suit to access the exhaustive FBI files on the incident.

The FBI failed to inform the Joint Congressional Committee about their probe of the Sarasota cell, despite numerous document requests to the Bureau. Now, Judge Zloch has insisted on seeing the documents for judicial review.

In his ruling, Judge Zloch wrote that “Defendant’s eagerness to assert exemptions and wooden method of interpreting Plaintiff’s [FOIA] requests essentially deprives the court of its role in examining any relevant documents and independently determining whether any exemptions may apply.”

Saudi Arabia’s Liability

In yet another blow to the Bush-Cheney and Obama coverup of 9/11, the U.S. Supreme Court is expected to take up an appeal by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to reinstate sovereign immunity in a series of Federal court cases holding Riyadh accountable for the 9/11 attacks. If the Supreme Court refuses to grant the Saudi Kingdom this exemption from legal action, the entire 9/11 coverup could be blown apart.

In one lawsuit by an international insurance company, Lloyds of London, against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, investigators provided a 125-page documentary brief on how various Saudi charities and ministries provided tens of millions of dollars to finance al-Qaeda’s global operations during the period leading up to the 9/11 attacks. Although the suit was withdrawn on technical, jurisdictional grounds, it stands as a stunning indictment of the multiple dimensions of Saudi official financing of the global jihadist terror apparatus behind the 9/11 attacks and scores of other atrocities.

The Impeachable Obama

Senator Graham has drawn a strong parallel between the Bush-Cheney and Obama coverup of the 9/11 funding by Saudi Arabia and the ongoing Obama coverup of the CIA’s torture/renditions program throughout the post-9/11 period.

The responsibility for what the intelligence agencies do rests with the President, now Barack Obama, Graham declared in an interview on the [Real News Network](#) posted March 17. Graham was asked for his

views of the dispute between the CIA and the Senate Intelligence Committee. Graham said that in the current torture scandal, the intelligence agencies covered up things and didn’t keep the Committee informed, as in the case of the two future 9/11 hijackers in San Diego who were living in the home of an FBI informant, and who had close ties to Saudi government agents.

When the interviewer asked him about what some people call the “deep state,” the idea that “the intelligence institutions have really their own momentum and agenda,” Graham replied that the responsibility is on the President who appoints the leadership of the intelligence agencies. “I don’t assume that these are just rogue people out doing whatever they want to. I assume that they are acting at the direction of the President.”

The interviewer then noted that in the case of the torture program, this was Bush and Cheney, but now, with the 6,000-page Senate torture report, it is Obama, and he could declassify it today, if he wanted to. Graham responded: “As you know, there is another, similar situation involving our report of the 9/11, where there was a chapter of 28 pages which largely deals with the question of who financed 9/11. That chapter has been censored now for more than 12 years, and there is no evidence that there is any likelihood that it’s going to be made available to the American people in the near future. I think that’s an outrage. There’s nothing in that report that involves today’s national security. There is a lot in that report which might help explain how did 9/11—how was it allowed and capable of actually occurring? And that information should be available to the American people.”

The interviewer then brought up the McClatchy report on Obama withholding from the Senate 6,000 pages of documents related to the torture investigation. As to how this will play out, Graham put the onus on Obama: “The President is inevitably going to be the ultimate figure in how this matter is resolved. I personally hope that he will resolve it on the side of openness, and then be prepared to deal with the consequences of letting the American people know what’s happening, and that it won’t be just limited, as important as it is, to this 6,000-page report on torture, that it will also include things like the report on who financed 9/11.”

Does anyone think that anything short of Obama’s impeachment will compel release of the suppressed pages, as Graham is demanding?