

AG Holder Threatened With Contempt Citation

May 20—The pressure is on to bring contempt of Congress charges against President Obama's Attorney General Eric Holder for his stonewalling of the investigation into the Executive branch's knowledge of the U.S. government gun-running operation, Fast and Furious. For months, Rep. Darrell Issa (R-Calif.), chairman of the House Government Operations and Reform Committee, has wanted to bring contempt charges based on Holder's continued refusal to turn over documents.

In Operation Fast and Furious, at least 2,000 weapons were provided to the deadly Mexican drug traffickers through the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). Some ATF weapons were found at the murder site of Border Agent Brian Terry.

While it has not been fully taken up by Congress, testimony by then-Deputy Attorney General David Ogden, in March 2009, revealed that the ATF had established 16 "new DEA stations" in the Southwest

United States, suggests that a connection between Fast and Furious gun-trafficking, and Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) money laundering should also be fully investigated.

On May 18, it was revealed that Republicans Congressmen—House Majority Leader John Boehner (Ohio), Rep. Eric Cantor (Va.), and Rep. Kevin McCarthy (Calif.)—joined with Issa in a letter to Holder which demands that the Attorney General cooperate fully with the ongoing investigation of Fast and Furious. And according to that letter, just released to the media, Boehner and his fellow Republicans are focused not only on what Holder knew and when he knew it, but perhaps on what the President, himself, knew.

The letter states that the House will bring a citation against Holder for contempt of Congress if he does not comply with the subpoena within weeks: "If necessary, the House will act to fulfill our constitutional obligations in the coming weeks. It is our hope that, with your cooperation, this sad chapter in the history of American law enforcement can be put behind us."

—Will Wertz