

Rep. Walter Jones, Others Demand Release of Saudi/911 Documents

by Edward Spannaus

Sept. 16—Momentum is building, as more and more publicity is being given to the demand for the release of secret U.S. government documents pertaining to the pernicious role of Saudi Arabia and its royal family in supporting the 9/11 terrorist attacks against the United States. Two sets of documents are immediately at issue:

1. The suppressed 28-page section of the Congressional Joint Inquiry's report on the 9/11 attacks, which is believed to focus on Saudi support for the 9/11 hijackers who were living in San Diego, Calif., prior to the 2001 attacks. These pages were ordered classified by President George W. Bush in 2003, and President Barack Obama, despite promises to do so, still refuses to make them public.

2. FBI documents concerning its investigation of a wealthy, well-connected Saudi family who fled from the Sarasota, Fla. area shortly before the 9/11 attacks, and who had direct contacts with a number of the 9/11 hijackers. The FBI recently disclosed, to the surprise and shock of many observers, that it has in its possession over 15,000 documents concerning its investigation into the 9/11 attacks in the Tampa-Sarasota area. The disclosure was in response to a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) lawsuit, brought by the online *Broward Bulldog*.

Motion in Congress

On Sept. 11, Rep. Walter B. Jones (R-N.C.) issued a statement urging the declassification of the censored 28 pages, which reads:

"As we commemorate the 12th anniversary of 9/11 it saddens me that vital evidence of this heinous attack is still being withheld from the American people. As a member of Congress, I had the opportunity to read the 28 pages of the Joint Congressional Inquiry into the attacks that have not yet been made public, and I believe that keeping this information classified is more about protecting powerful interests than our national security.

"Former Senator Bob Graham deserves a great deal of credit for working towards the declassification of the 28 pages. I join him in calling on the leaders of the administration, House, and Senate to make this information public. This disclosure will allow the American people to access information that they deserve to know—the full story of the tragedy on September 11, 2001."

Other members of Congress who have called for the release of the Saudi/911 documents are two Florida Democrats, Alan Grayson and Kathy Castor. During an Aug. 1 appearance on C-SPAN's Washington Journal, Grayson said, in an answer to a caller, which C-SPAN replayed on Sept. 11: "Now that bin Laden is dead, and now that 9/11 is a decade behind us and more, I think that a good argument could be made that the documents that the federal government has regarding the 9/11 attacks should be declassified, and then the truth will come out."

And in September 2011, when the story of the Sarasota Saudis first broke into public light, Castor, who represents part of the Tampa area, called on the House Intelligence Committee to investigate why the FBI did not disclose information it had to Congress, concerning its Sarasota investigation. Castor's letter was directed to the chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, Rep. Mike Rogers (R-Mich.), and its ranking member, Rep. Dutch Ruppersberger (D-Md.).

Another recent call for Congress to act came from a 9/11 widow, Terry Strada, whose husband died in the World Trade Center in the 2001 attacks. In an open letter to Members of Congress, published in the *Huffington Post* on Sept. 11, Strada took note of the current outrage over atrocities in Syria, but then asked: Where is the outrage over the fact that the criminals who funded the 9/11 attacks have not yet been held accountable?

"The public still does not know the whole story about who bankrolled the attacks. It is still a secret," she

wrote, noting that the 9/11 Commission was denied access to critical documents, that Commission co-chairmen Tom Kean and Lee Hamilton have asked for declassification of the suppressed 28 pages, and that former Sen. Bob Graham (D-Fla.) has been calling for a re-opening of the 9/11 investigation.

“Let’s begin with the obvious,” she wrote. “Do we believe 19 hijackers, who barely spoke English, came to the United States via air travel, rented apartments and cars, attended aviation schools, travelled and lived here for 2 years and bought first class airfare to practice and execute their heinous crimes did so with no monetary support? These Islamist hit men were bankrolled for over 2 years by a very wealthy al-Qaeda financial network of individuals, banks and ostensible charities (aka the Golden Chain), based almost entirely in Saudi Arabia.”

Strada is part of a group of 9/11 families who have been trying for years to pursue a legal case against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, several Saudi princes, and others accused of financing al-Qaeda and other terrorist groups. In 2005, the Saudis were dismissed from the case. Soon, according to Dan Christenson of the *Broward Bulldog*, legislation will be introduced in Congress to overturn the court rulings which have prevented the families from suing the Saudis and others they believe are culpable for financing terrorism.

Florida Abuzz over Saudi Role

A wave of news and editorial coverage hit the news media in Florida around the 9/11 anniversary, concerning the FBI’s withholding of information on the Saudi role.

The *Sarasota Herald-Tribune* reviewed the suppression of the Sarasota-Saudi-9/11 story, with its report, based on Bob Graham’s charges of a cover-up of the question: “Who financed and supported the 9/11 attacks?”

“It is a big onion, which is being slowly peeled,” Graham told the *Herald-Tribune*. “We are continuing with all the means that are still available to us to get this material into the hands of the public.

“And the FBI is aggressively resisting the release of any additional documents,” he said. “What interest does the FBI have in denying the existence of its own documents? Beyond that, they have thrown a blanket of national security over virtually everything, and why are they doing that for an event that occurred, soon to be, 12 years ago?”



LPAC/Chris Jadatz

On the anniversary of 9/11, Rep. Walter Jones called for declassification of the 28 pages from the Inquiry Commission report on the role of the Saudis in that atrocity.

Larry Berberich, who was head of security for the gated Prestancia community where the wealthy Saudi Ghazzawi family, linked to the 9/11 hijackers, lived, says: “Some of the local [police] departments knew a hell of a lot about what was going on and were feeding the FBI that information,” but soon after local law enforcement officers searched the vacated home of the Saudis in Prestancia, he said, “everything went black,” and local law enforcement personnel privy to evidence were muzzled.

The *Herald-Tribune* article also contained some new information about the high-level Saudi connections of Esam Ghazzawi, who owned the Prestancia house. His father, Abbas Ghazzawi, was part of the royal entourage when King Saud came to the U.S. to meet with President Eisenhower in 1957, and was part of the negotiations that allowed the U.S. to keep a military base in Saudi Arabia in exchange for the U.S. selling arms to Saudi Arabia.

Additional Florida coverage includes:

- On Sept. 11, the Tampa ABC station ran a story on the Sarasota Saudis and the *Broward Bulldog*’s FOIA suit, reporting that “Thousands of classified documents housed at a Tampa FBI field office could be the key to unlocking more information about an intriguing Tampa Bay connection to the 9/11 attacks.”

“We’d like to know what’s in those documents,” said Miami attorney Tom Julin, who is representing the *Bulldog*. “The concern here is that there was a network of Saudis, not only in Sarasota, but throughout the

United States, who were helping the terrorists who committed the attacks on 9/11, and that this was never disclosed to Congress, that it was covered up for some reason,” Julin told ABC.

- The Sarasota *Herald-Tribune* announced that it is joining the *Broward Bulldog*’s FOIA suit, saying: “Of particular interest are agency documents that would shed light on the alleged interactions of a high-echelon Saudi family—living in Sarasota’s Prestancia neighborhood just before the attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon—and three hijacker pilots who trained in Venice [Fla.] around the same time.” The *Herald-Tribune*’s lawyer said the paper wants to present its own arguments to the court about the FBI’s efforts to keep its southwest Florida findings hidden. “Sadly, there are Florida connections to the 9/11 terrorists and our shared, national tragedy,” the attorney said. “We want to weigh in and keep pushing for federal records about those local connections and the Tampa FBI field office’s actions.”

- The *Herald-Tribune* ran an editorial on Sept. 12, entitled “Sarasota, Saudis and 9/11,” which reprises the previous day’s article on the FBI efforts to conceal the story of the Ghazzawi family and the hijackers; quotes

Bob Graham saying that the 28-page section of the Congressional Joint Inquiry’s 2003 report “was censored on the orders of then-President George W. Bush and is still being withheld from the public,” and reports that Graham said he believes that the information was concealed to provide “protection of the Saudis from embarrassment, protection of the administration from political embarrassment ... some of the unknowns, some of the secrets of 9/11.” The editorial asks why the FBI is concealing this information, and expresses hope that the FOIA lawsuit will lead to more disclosure.

- The *Herald-Tribune*’s sister papers, the *Lakeland Ledger*, the *Panama City News Herald*, and the *Ocala Star Banner*, all published similar editorials publicizing the FOIA suit and urging the federal court to release all the documents.

International Coverage

On Sept. 11, under the title “Washington, London, the Saudis: Backbone of Terrorism,” Daniel Estulin’s popular *Desde las Sombras* program on Russia Today’s Spanish-language channel, featured an interview with *EIR*’s Jeffrey Steinberg on the Saudi role in 9/11. RT’s promo for the program stated: “In this episode, Daniel Estulin talks about the mystery which surrounds the 9/11 attacks, and refers to the findings and that which is certain—largely coming from the FBI archives by means of which the Congressional Investigatory Committee confirmed the deep involvement of the Saudi government, which provided critical logistical and material support for the terrorists in the 9/11 attacks.”

Estulin’s first question for Steinberg concerned the 28 pages, which led into a discussion about the role of Prince Bandar bin Sultan, the Saudi Ambassador to the U.S. at the time of the 9/11 attacks, who was implicated in providing financial and other material support to the hijackers.

Also on Sept. 11, HISPANTV, the Spanish-language version of Iran’s Press TV, posted a two-minute story on the continuing cover-up of the authors of 9/11, centered on interviews with New Jersey political candidates, LaRouche associates Diane Sare and Bruce Todd, running for Governor and Lt. Governor, respectively. Sare’s radio ad, calling for release of the 28 pages, was prominent in the story. Sare is pointing to the lack of any investigation of another likely node in the Saudi support network—Paterson, N.J.—where 11 of the 19 hijackers were present, without detection, before the 9/11 attacks.

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