

9/11 FAMILIES UNITED TO BANKRUPT TERRORISM

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June 20, 2013

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We, the survivors and the families of those killed in the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, are in the second decade of our painful pursuit of the unabridged and truthful story behind the financing and support of those murderous attacks. On that terrible day our nation, lives and those of our children, spouses, siblings, parents and friends were traumatically changed forever.

We have been denied the whole story by past and present administrations. Our efforts to seek the truth, accountability and justice have been thwarted time and again by our own government for over 10 years. We may be disheartened but not defeated.

The crux of the problem is a persistent pattern of obfuscation and deflection into the parts of the investigation that shed light on who provided the financial and material assistance that made the attacks possible. Our plea is for you to bring your laudable pledge of transparency to the 9/11 investigation.

We ask you, Mr. President, to make public the complete, unredacted 28 pages of Part Four of the 107th Congress's *Joint Inquiry into Intelligence Community Activities before and after the Terrorist Attacks of September 11, 2001*. Those withheld pages involve information regarding "specific sources of foreign support for some of the September 11 hijackers while they were in the United States," the report says.

Apparently, the decision to withhold these pages was made by President George W. Bush for unspecified reasons of national security. Others who have seen the material have long disagreed with that assessment. They include former Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman Bob Graham (D-FL), who also co-chaired the Joint Inquiry. He has stated publicly that he believes that 95 percent of the material is safe for public consumption and that the pages were kept secret for reasons other than national security. He has further stated that the information had been "misclassified" and that though "the information may be embarrassing or politically damaging, its revelation would not damage national security."

It is unconscionable that the *incineration and disappearance* in one day of nearly 3,000 innocent people, the injuries of thousands more and the long-term sickness and death of

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those who responded to the tragedy have not been enough to get the full force of the law, transparency and our government fully behind us. This adds insult to injury.

Shortly after you took office in 2009, you promised a group of family members and survivors meeting in your office that you would release the 28 pages from the *9/11 Joint Congressional Inquiry*. This has not yet happened.

In 2011, with your leadership, our brave troops tracked down Osama bin Laden and killed him, ending a painful chapter for us but not ending the grief. We thank you and our troops for that action. However, we must ask, is it fair to keep an entire generation of survivors' and victims' families from finding out the complete truth about who gave financial support *and* who among them was living within our borders and supporting the 19 hijackers?

The transparency begins with the 28 pages, but it extends much further. For example, we are closely monitoring a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit in which plaintiffs are suing the U.S. Department of Justice and the FBI in U.S. District Court, Southern District of Florida, regarding an investigation involving a Saudi family, former residents of Sarasota, FL, who may have provided aid or assistance to the 9/11 hijackers. We understand that plaintiffs in that case have also requested Part Four of the report of the Joint Inquiry.

Withholding the truth may keep us from moving on, but, worse, we fear that it is a threat to our national security. Only by shining light on the terror financing networks do we dry them up.

As a start, we are asking you to keep the promise you made so many years ago. A promise we believed in. A promise that gave us *hope*.

We implore you, Mr. President, to do the right thing, keep your promise and release the 28 pages that should never have been classified in the first place, thereby beginning the transition to transparency in this horrid chapter of our history.

Most Respectfully,

The Plaintiffs Steering Committee

Beverly and Thomas E. Burnett, Sr., Eden Prairie, MN

Terry Strada, New Vernon, NJ

Sharon Premoli, East Dorset, VT

Emanuel Lipscomb, Washington, DC

Jean Hunt, Cranford, NJ

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The 9/11 Families United to Bankrupt Terrorism

This group is comprised of over 6,000 family members of those killed and injured in the attacks of 9/11. They are united in the cause of pursuing justice and deterring future terrorist attacks. To do so, they are using the civil legal system to pursue those who financed and provided material support for those cowardly terrorist attacks. The case is *In Re Thomas E. Burnett, Sr., et al. v. Al Baraka Investment & Development Corp., et al.*, Case No. 03-CV-9849 (GBD); *In Re Terrorist Attacks on September 11, 2001*, 03 MDL 1570. The families are represented by complex civil litigation firm Motley Rice LLC.