

June 10, 2013

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FILE NO: 99997.029952

Melanie Ann Pustay Director, Office of Information and Privacy United States Department of Justice Attn: Sarah Ross, Attorney Adviser

1425 New York Ave., NW - Suite 11050

Washington, DC 20530

By Fax 202-514-1009

Re: Mandatory Declassification Request

Dear Ms. Pustay:

This is a request on behalf of our clients, Dan Christensen, Anthony Summers, and Robbyn Swan, pursuant to section 3.5 of Executive Order 13256 and 28 CFR § 17.31 for Mandatory Declassification Review of all classified information and records disclosed or referenced on pages 416 through 443(all of Part Four) of the 107th Congress's Joint Inquiry into Intelligence Community Activities before and after the Terrorist Attacks of September 11. 2001, that have not been publicly disclosed. Those 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.

Our clients are reporters with BrowardBulldog.org, a not for profit news site in South Florida. Mr. Christensen is founder and operator of the site. Mr. Summers and Ms. Swan are also the authors of "The Eleventh Day: The Full Story of 9/11 and Osama bin Laden, a Finalist for the Pulitzer Prize for History in 2012.

To the best of our clients' knowledge and belief, the documents and material containing the classified information at issue are not within an operational file exempted from search and review, publication, and disclosure requirements of 5 U.S.C. §552, and the information is not the subject of pending litigation.

I note that section 3.6 of Executive Order 13256 specifies that when an agency receives a request for documents in its custody that contain classified information that originated with other agencies, it shall refer copies of the request to the originating agency. If therefore, you conclude that this request seeks declassification of information that originated

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with other agencies such as the Central Intelligence Agency, please refer copies of this request to those other agencies.

Please also promptly forward this request, as required by 28 C.F.R. §17.31(b), to the component of the Department of Justice that originally classified the information and provide me with an acknowledgement of receipt of the request.

If any additional information is required to identify the requested information, please have the component that classified the information contact me and I will endeavor to provide the needed information on behalf of our clients. If the information or material requested cannot be obtained with a reasonable amount of effort, please have the component provide me with written notification of the reasons no action will be taken and our clients' right to appeal the decision to the Department Review Committee.

Please also ask the component that originally classified the information to provide a written response to this request for mandatory review within 60 days if possible, or to inform me in writing why additional time is needed.

My understanding of the Department's regulations is that unless there are unusual circumstances, the additional time needed by the component originally classifying the information shall not extend beyond 180 days from the receipt of the request. If no determination has been made at the end of the 180 day period, my clients may apply to the Department Review Committee for a determination.

More than a decade has passed since the Joint Inquiry's report was released to the American public without the 28 pages that our clients seek. The decision to withhold this information was apparently made by President George W. Bush for unspecified reasons of national security. Others who have seen the material have long disagreed with that assessment. For example, both Senator Bob Graham (D-FL), and Senator Richard C. Shelby (R-AL), who co-chaired the Joint Inquiry, have stated publicly that they believe 95 percent of the material is safe for public consumption and that the pages were kept secret for reasons other than national security. Sen. Graham further said 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 also is important to note that the leaders of the Saudi Government, who some have said are the object of the redacted pages, want those pages declassified. As reflected in the



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Congressional Record at 13,349-372 (Sen. Oct. 28, 2003), those leaders are angry and embarrassed by speculation about what the redacted materials might show and have wanted those pages declassified so that they could defend themselves against any charges that may have been made against them.

Finally, 9/11 survivors and family members would like those records made public. For example, Kristen Breitweiser, whose husband, Ronald, died in the World Trade Center, and Bill Doyle, whose son Joseph died there, have said that during a 2009 meeting with President Obama the President said he was willing to declassify the suppressed material. If so, we respectfully submit that it is now time to honor that commitment to the bereaved family members.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas R./Julin

Attorney for Dan Christensen, Anthony Summers

and Robbyn Swan

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EC

HS

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Abbreviations:

HS: Host Send

HR: Host Receive

MS: Mailbox Save MP: Mailbox Print PL:Polled Local

PR:Polled Remote WS: Waiting To Send

EC: Error Correct

CP: Completed

FA:Fail

RP:Report

TS:Terminated by System

TU: Terminated by User

G3:Group3

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Melanie Ann Pustay U.S. Department of Justice Attn: Sarah Ross

202-514-3624

FAX NO:

202-514-1009

PAGES (INCLUDING COVER): ORIGINAL TO FOLLOW IN MAIL:

TO

DIRECT DIAL:

Thomas R. Julin

MESSAGE

Mandatory Declassification Request

IF PROBLEM WITH TRANSMISSION, PLEASE CONTACT OPERATOR AT 305 • 810 • 2500.

OPERATOR

DATE:

CLIENT/MATTER NAME: CLIENT/MATTER NO.:

99997.029952