

June 10, 2013

Ms. Kathryn Ruemmler
Office of the White House Counsel
Executive Office of the President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Ms. Ruemmler:

This is a request for declassification and release by the President of certain government records made on behalf of myself, Anthony Summers, and Robbyn Swan.

We 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.

We ask that you provide us with complete, unredacted copies of all 28 withheld 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.

A decade has passed since the Joint Inquiry’s report was released to the American public with the pages censored. 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 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 long 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.

We agree in advance to pay any reasonable costs to retrieve and reproduce these records.

Please reach us by return email, or by cell phone at 954-242-2822.

We understand that neither the Freedom of Information Act nor the Mandatory Declassification Review provisions of Executive Order 13256 will be applicable to your handling of this matter. We may separately seek release of the records pursuant to that law and that order. This letter is simply a request for the President to exercise his discretion under section 3.1 of Executive Order 13256 to declassify the information within the requested 28 pages and to release those pages to us.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dan Christensen
Anthony Summers
Robbyn Swan