



Fwd: Correspondence from Senator McCain

ralphieboy39@netscape.net <ralphieboy39@netscape.net>
To: pruntyld@gmail.com

Thu, Oct 3, 2013 at 1:06 PM

FYI

-----Original Message-----

From: senator <senator@mccain.senate.gov>
To: ralphieboy39 <ralphieboy39@netscape.net>
Sent: Thu, Oct 3, 2013 11:29 am
Subject: Correspondence from Senator McCain

October 3, 2013

Mr. Ralph Prunty
2525 Hiawatha Road
Cedar Falls, IA 50613-1016

Dear Mr. Prunty:

Thank you for contacting me regarding the investigation into the terrorist attacks on our Consulate in Benghazi last September. I appreciate hearing your concerns on this important issue, and despite recent events in the region that have overshadowed this travesty, I remain committed to getting the answers every American—especially the families of the victims—deserves to know.

I am deeply outraged and saddened by the death of four U.S. citizens, including Ambassador Chris Stevens, during an attack on the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi on September 11, 2012. I am equally outraged by the manner in which President Obama handled the situation as it happened, and the dark cloud of uncertainty and deceit that hangs over the events of that fateful night.

In the year following the Benghazi terrorist attack, there have been several Congressional hearings surrounding this tragedy. The Administration, however, refuses to adequately answer fundamental questions or take accountability for what transpired. On January 23, 2013, then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton testified before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and a month later on February 7, then-Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Martin Dempsey testified before the Senate Armed Services Committee. On both occasions, as well as in hearings last year in the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, I demanded that the witnesses respond to the questions that to this day remain unanswered. The American people still do not know who made the unwise policy decision that led to shrinking diplomatic security forces in known dangerous outposts, or who was awake and making the decisions that night in Washington.

We have still not uncovered the truth of what happened in the aftermath of this tragedy. State Department whistleblowers Mark Thompson, Acting Deputy Secretary for Counterterrorism; Gregory Hicks, former Deputy Chief of Mission in Libya; and Eric Nordstrom, Diplomatic Security Officer and former Regional Security Officer in Libya, testified before the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee on May 8, 2013. From their testimonies we uncovered that the White House, State Department, and Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) talking points in the weeks after the attack—during the height of campaign season—were altered as the Administration wanted to change the perception of actual events and mitigate risk to President Obama's re-election efforts.

There is plenty of blame to go around. To date, the State Department's own "Accountability Review Board" has yielded no disciplinary action, the CIA and Defense Departments have yet to round up any of the suspected perpetrators, and the White House simply refuses to release key documents or cooperate with any Congressional investigative efforts. I believe we need to create a select committee to investigate the truth behind the Obama Administration's actions, and in November 2012, I introduced a resolution in the Senate to do just that. My resolution

and subsequent versions introduced by other Senators have yet to be acted-on by the Senate.

There were undeniable security and intelligence failings which claimed the lives of four U.S. citizens. Please know that I will continue to demand that President Obama's Administration provide the all of the information related to the tragedy in Benghazi in order to provide justice to the families, hold the Administration accountable for its actions (or inaction), and prevent a travesty like this from happening again.

Again, thank you for contacting me on this important issue. Please feel free to contact me on this or any other matter in the future

Sincerely,
John McCain
United States Senator

JM/int