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wolf.house.gov

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

July 24, 2013

The Honorable John Kerry
Secretary of State
2201 C St NW Ste 7276
Washington DC 20520

Dear Secretary Kerry:

I appreciate the State Department's prompt response to my July 18 letter regarding Non-Disclosure Agreements.

Thomas B. Gibbons, acting assistant secretary for legislative affairs, wrote that the department "does not prevent State Department employees who want to tell their stories about the Benghazi attacks from doing so." He also offered further assistance on this matter.

With that in mind, I am formally requesting the names and contact information for the five State Department survivors so that I can ask to hear their stories directly. I would appreciate this information by no later than August 1.

As you may recall, I originally wrote you on March 1 to ask about the condition of those wounded in the attack, as well as the names and contact information of the State Department survivors. After waiting more than two months for a response to that letter, I was informed that the department would not provide this information.

That is why I particularly appreciate this latest response, which indicates a renewed interest in helping the Congress communicate directly with the survivors.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

Frank R. Wolf
Member of Congress

*I am willing to meet with
from next week. I am X*



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

JUL 23 2013

Dear Mr. Wolf:

Thank you for your July 18 letter inquiring about non-disclosure agreements regarding the Benghazi attacks.

As part of their employment, most Department employees sign the Classified Information Nondisclosure Agreement (Standard Form 312). The Department has not asked any employees to sign separate non-disclosure agreements or comparable contractual agreements regarding events in Benghazi.

We have consistently communicated that any State Department employees who want to share their personal accounts, whether with the Accountability Review Board or with the Congress, may do so. The Department does not prevent State Department employees who want to tell their stories about the Benghazi attacks from doing so.

We hope that this information is useful to you. Please let us know if we can be of further assistance on this or any other matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Gibbons".

Thomas B. Gibbons
Acting Assistant Secretary
Legislative Affairs

The Honorable
Frank Wolf,
House of Representatives.



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

MAY - 6 2013

Dear Mr. Wolf:

Thank you for your letter of March 1 concerning the September 11 attack on our Special Mission Compound in Benghazi, Libya. Everyone at the State Department lost cherished friends and colleagues on that tragic day, and we share your commitment to understanding and learning from the attack. In the aftermath of that attack, and the other incidents of violence against our embassies, we have taken many steps to improve security at our posts around the world. Building on the recommendations of the independent Benghazi Accountability Review Board, and in close cooperation with the Congress, we continue to make significant progress on this front.

The Department appreciates your interest in talking to the five State Department Diplomatic Security agents who survived the attack. At the same time, we have serious concerns about their welfare and want to be careful not to interfere with the FBI's investigation of the attack. One agent is currently recovering at a local military hospital, and the other four have returned to duty. All are security professionals, and we are committed to ensuring their security as they return to the field. Should their identities become public, they may become targets, putting their lives, as well as those of their families and the people they protect, at increased risk.

We have provided Congress with extraordinary access to information related to the attack in Benghazi. We have participated in eight Congressional hearings and more than 20 Congressional briefings, and shared over 25,000 pages of internal records related to the situation in Benghazi, including reporting from the night of the attack. Also, we shared with the Congress the classified and unclassified reports of the independent Benghazi Accountability Review Board, which reflect the input of people on the ground in Benghazi and Tripoli.

The Honorable
Frank R. Wolf,
House of Representatives.

We share your interest in ensuring the protection of U.S. diplomats and development experts overseas. The Department, along with our interagency partners, has made significant efforts to work with Congress in addressing the circumstances surrounding the Benghazi attack and the aftermath, and will continue to do so consistent with the need to protect the integrity of the FBI's investigation and the safety and security of the agents involved.

If you have questions that have not been answered in the classified Accountability Review Board report, or in the documents we have made available to you, then please let us know. We hope this information is helpful to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas B. Gibbons", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Thomas B. Gibbons
Acting Assistant Secretary
Legislative Affairs