

For Immediate Release

OUTRAGED AT U.S. ATTORNEY GENERAL BARR, THOUSANDS OF 9/11 FAMILY MEMBERS LAUNCH CAMPAIGN TO REVERSE BARR'S "STATE SECRETS" DECISION ON KEY FBI INVESTIGATIVE DOCUMENTS

Attorneys Representing Presumed Terrorists Held at GTMO Given Thousands of 9/11 Documents the DOJ and FBI Refuse to Give to 9/11 Plaintiffs Suing the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Federal Court

New York, NY, July 21, 2020 . . . In a scathing letter to U.S. Attorney General William Barr [released publicly today](#), thousands of 9/11 family members expressed outrage that accused terrorists held at the GTMO U.S. military prison now have access to thousands of critical 9/11 investigative documents that the FBI and DOJ have intentionally prevented the families from reviewing as they pursue justice from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the 9/11 attacks. The letter to Barr comes in advance of his scheduled July 28 appearance before the House Judiciary Committee.

The letter to AG Barr is signed by 3,361 9/11 family members. The families are currently reaching out to dozens of members of the House Judiciary, Intelligence and Foreign Affairs committees, pleading with them to press AG Barr to reconsider his recent "state secrets" decisions, which twice prevented the release of key documents to the families.

The families' letter further questions why defense attorneys for accused 9/11 terrorists have access to U.S. government 9/11 documents – 20,000 - 25,000 pages -- that the DOJ has denied to the families. The families contend that those documents identify witnesses who transported two of the 9/11 hijackers to Los Angeles International Airport, contain specific information about the 9/11 terrorist support cell in California during the time of the plot and more.

"This situation is reprehensible and unacceptable," say the families in the letter. "How can it be that the mastermind (Khalid Sheikh Mohamed) behind the deadliest attack on American soil is somehow entitled, under your DOJ's direction, to relevant U.S. government investigative documents about the 9/11

plot, yet the families whose loved ones were wrenched from us so painfully and ruthlessly that day are prohibited from seeing this same information?”

“The actions of the Attorney General in this matter are outrageous,” said **Congresswoman and military combat veteran Tulsi Gabbard** (D-HI). “At every turn, it seems, our DOJ and FBI look to derail our 9/11 families’ pursuit of justice and transparency. These families and the American people deserve answers about those who supported and enabled the 9/11 terrorist hijackers, who could not and did not act alone. Hiding behind and abusing the use of the state secrets doctrine in this matter is unjustified and an affront to the American people.” In October 2019, Rep. Gabbard stood with the 9/11 families and publicly demanded the declassification of 9/11 investigative documents containing information which other evidence reveals may implicate the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the attacks.

“For years the FBI has refused to release documents from Operation Encore, undertaken from 2007-2016, the Bureau’s investigation into the Saudi role in 9/11,” said **Brett Eagleson, a 9/11 family member who lost his father Bruce Eagleson in the attacks**. “We know from credible sources that Operation Encore uncovered substantial damning information about the Saudi government’s support of the terrorists, information that was not available to the 9/11 Commission during its earlier investigation. After almost 20 years, we and the American people deserve to know what the FBI knows about who killed our loved ones and attacked our nation.”

In September 2019, one day after 20 9/11 family members met with President Donald Trump at The White House to plead for access to the FBI’s documents, AG Barr chose instead to invoke the state secrets privilege, prohibiting the release of these documents to the families, an action contrary to the families’ expectations, based on the White House meeting.

The Operation Encore documents the families seek include:

- information from the FBI's investigation of Saudi Ministry of Islamic Affairs officials who assisted the hijackers in California;
- evidence supporting the FBI's statement that Saudi Embassy official Musaed al Jarrah assisted and instructed others to assist the hijackers; and,
- an April 2016 final summary upon the closure of the Operation Encore investigation.

Chairman Nadler to Re-Introduce State Secret Protection Act

Eagleson noted that the families appreciate the recent [announcement](#) by **House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler** that he would soon be re-introducing the State Secret Protection Act "to ensure independent judicial review of state secrets claims" and his concern about the use of the State Secrets Doctrine regarding 9/11 investigative documents kept hidden from the American public by the DOJ.

At the time of his announcement, Chairman Nadler said: "The 9/11 families have fought tirelessly for nearly two decades to bring to justice all those associated with the deadly terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. It is outrageous that the Department of Justice and the Intelligence Community are now asserting the fatally flawed 'state secrets' doctrine to prevent access to information the families need in order to pursue their claims against Saudi Arabia — without any opportunity for independent review of the information being concealed."

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[**CLICK HERE FOR LINK TO THE FAMILIES' LETTER TO ATTORNEY GENERAL BARR**](#)

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