September 10, 2023

The Honorable Merrick Garland
Attorney General
Department of Justice

The Honorable Christopher Wray
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Dear Attorney General Garland and Director Wray:

Tomorrow marks the 22nd anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, which took nearly 3,000 lives and reshaped the world as we then knew it. No one was more affected by these attacks than the families of those whose lives were lost on that day, and who have struggled to obtain accountability ever since. Our inquiry into Saudi Arabia’s attempts to influence U.S. affairs has underscored, yet again, the need for transparency, particularly regarding Saudi Arabia’s connection to the 9/11 attacks.

We wrote to you on July 18, 2023, asking that the U.S. government finally provide full transparency into what it knows about the attacks, particularly as it relates to Saudi Arabia’s involvement.1 In that letter, we requested access to the complete, unredacted records of Saudi Arabia’s role (including the records in Appendix A) and asked that you explain any ongoing need for classification of any portions of these records. In an August 8, 2023 meeting, our staff told Department of Justice (DOJ) and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) officials to prioritize producing an unredacted copy of the 11-page document contained in Appendix A. Over one month since that call and nearly two months since our initial letter request, we have not received a single document or obtained an explanation for any of the hundreds of redactions that remain, despite the government’s recent declassification review.2

Your failure to respond to our letter only adds to our concerns about the U.S. government’s longstanding refusal to provide full transparency to the American public, and particularly for the families of 9/11 victims, about Saudi Arabia’s role in the 9/11 attacks. We therefore write to reiterate our July 18, 2023 request for unredacted copies of documents related to Saudi Arabia’s involvement in the 9/11 attacks, including removing redactions from the documents that have been released pursuant to President Biden’s Executive Order 14040 calling

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1 See Attachment 1, Letter from Senator Richard Blumenthal, Chair, and Senator Ron Johnson, Ranking Member, Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, to The Honorable Merrick Garland, Attorney General, Department of Justice, and the Honorable Christopher Wray, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation (July 18, 2023).
for the “Declassification Reviews of Certain Documents Concerning the Terrorist Attacks of September 11, 2001.”\textsuperscript{3} We also reiterate our specific request that you provide the unredacted copy of Appendix A and ask that you provide these documents as well as a briefing regarding the need for any ongoing classification on Thursday, September 14, 2023.\textsuperscript{4}

Should DOJ and the FBI fail to provide the briefing and continue to fail to provide the requested unredacted documents by this deadline, the Subcommittee will be forced to consider the use of the other tools at its disposal to ensure compliance.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Richard Blumenthal
Chairman
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

Ron Johnson
Ranking Member
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

cc: The Honorable Michael Horowitz
Inspector General
Department of Justice

\textsuperscript{4} Should the briefing require, it can be held in the Office of Senate Security.
Appendix 1
July 18, 2023

The Honorable Merrick Garland
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice

The Honorable Christopher Wray
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Dear Attorney General Garland and Director Wray:

We write to request all records1 related to Saudi Arabia’s involvement in the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. Since 9/11, families of the victims have struggled to get complete transparency from the U.S. government, particularly relating to Saudi Arabia’s connections to the attacks that unfolded that day. For many years, these families have advocated for the U.S. government to declassify and release records showing the extent to which federal agencies like the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) are aware of potential Saudi government links to 9/11.2

Our most recent Subcommittee hearing focused on the Saudi Arabian government’s financial influence in the United States.3 At that hearing, Ranking Member Johnson entered into the record documents that he received from representatives of individuals who lost loved ones on 9/11. The heavily-redacted documents enclosed as Appendix A to this letter represent just a small sample of information the U.S. government has declassified regarding its investigations into potential Saudi involvement in 9/11.

We understand the FBI has declassified over 4,000 pages of documents relating to the federal government’s investigation into the 9/11 attacks.4 The number of redactions that DOJ, FBI, and other agencies have made in these documents have prevented 9/11 families and the

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1 “Records” include any written, recorded, or graphic material of any kind, including letters, memoranda, reports, notes, electronic data (emails, email attachments, and any other electronically-created or stored information), calendar entries, inter-office communications, meeting minutes, phone/voice mail or recordings/records of verbal communications, and drafts (whether or not they resulted in final documents).


American people from receiving adequate transparency and important access to the information the federal government has about the 9/11 terrorist attacks. While classification of certain information is important, there is a strong public interest in disclosure of all information relating to the worst terrorist attacks that have taken place on American soil.

It has been nearly 22 years since the 9/11 attacks. We urge the FBI to declassify and make public all remaining information related to Saudi Arabia’s involvement in the 9/11 attacks, including removing redactions from the documents that have been released pursuant to President Biden’s Executive Order 14040 calling for the “Declassification Reviews of Certain Documents Concerning the Terrorist Attacks of September 11, 2001.”

We request that you provide the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations with unredacted copies of these documents. To the extent that any information in these documents must remain classified, please segregate all unclassified material within the classified documents, provide all unclassified information directly to the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, and provide a classified addendum to the Office of Senate Security. Additionally, we request a briefing to help the Subcommittee better understand the steps that FBI and DOJ have taken to ensure that records pertaining to the 9/11 attacks are not subject to unnecessary classification.

Please provide this information and briefing as soon as possible but no later than August 8, 2023. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Richard Blumenthal
Chairman
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

Ron Johnson
Ranking Member
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

cc: The Honorable Michael Horowitz
Inspector General
U.S. Department of Justice

Enclosure

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Appendix A
Operation Encore Update (as of 20 March 2014):

- **19 March 2014** – Interview of **(P)** Iyad Al-Rababah’s **(P)** at her place of employment **(P)** in Paramus, NJ. **(P)** advised that she has been in contact with Al-Rababah, currently in Jordan, as recently as one month ago, and maintains regular contact with him by telephone. **(P)** agreed to a future interview to provide additional details on her relationship with Al-Rababah, her knowledge of Al-Rababah’s former roommate **(P)** and Al-Rababah’s current living situation in Jordan.

- **17 March 2014** – Fox News provided internet link to a 28 minute interview of **(P)** in **(P)**, NJ in September 2011. Interview will be reviewed **(D), (P)**.

- **06 March 2014** – Case team meeting with FBI Newark regarding Encore subject **(P)**. Several leads pertaining to **(D), (P)** were discussed to include, **(P)** relatives in PA. **(P)** Iyad Al-Rababah.

- **28 February 2014** – SVTC with San Diego case team re Encore background regarding significance of San Diego subject Mohdar Abdullah, and San Diego based connections to Encore.

- **26 February 2014** – Case strategy meeting with SDNY USA **(S)**

EO14040-000222-UPDATED
• 24 January 2014 – Case strategy meeting with SDNY USA (D) 

• 19-20 December 2013 – (G) . FBI LA, FBI WFO interview Mohdar Abdullah (F) 
  (G) 

• December 2013 – SDNY advised that defense counsel (D), (P) 
  (D), (P) 

• 05 November 2013 – (G) advised they would seek to arrange an interview with Al-Mansoori at the US Embassy in (G) 

• 14 October 2013 – (J-3) 

• October 2013 – (A), (G), (J-1) 

• 19 August 2013 
  (C-1) 

• 13 August 2013 – SDNY advised that (P), (D) 
  (P), (D) 

• 09 July 2013 – (P), (D) 

• May/June 2013 - Coordination with USAO SDNY regarding (P), (D) 

• 13 May 2013 – SDNY advised that (P) is represented by counsel and that discussions are under way for a proffer of (P) at SDNY in June 2013. 

• 1 May 2013 – (J-3) 

• 18 April 2013 FBI Newark agrees to turn over (F) (P) to New York for investigation under Operation Encore. 

• 11 April 2013 SDNY confirmed positive contact made with a defense attorney (D), (P) 

• 08 April 2013 - (A), (G), (J-1) reporting provided by Al-Rababah. 

• 05 April 2013 - (A), (G), (J-1) reporting and background of Al-Rababah. 

• 20 March 2013 meeting with SDNY, was held regarding investigative approach on (P) DHS's appeal of the U.S. Immigration judge's order granting asylum to (P) was issued a final denial. 

• March 2013 - (D)
February 2013 - (A), (G), (J-1) to conduct an interview of Mohamed Al-Mansoori

25 January 2013 - Encore Case team met with SDNY AUSA (S) and DOJ main attorney (S) during the meeting, SDNY and DOJ were advised of case developments.

30 November 2012 - (C-2)

24 September 2012 - Meeting with AUSA (S) and DOJ attorney (S) at NYO Chelsea. At the request of (G) AUSA (S) will explore potential charges for Mohdar Abdullah, including providing material support to the 9/11 hijackers, as well as lesser crimes, which investigators could present at a future interview with Abdullah (S).

10 September 2012 - (G) has assisted Legat Copenhagen in providing information to (C-2) advised on 10 September 2012 that (U-2) Upon resolution of the claim and its likely rejection, (G) will coordinate with SDNY (A), (G), (J-1)

(P) her mother (P) father (P) and mother's sister (P) were sentenced on (P) 2012, in the Southern District of California to five years' probation and a $2,500 fine, each. The Office of Immigration Litigation is preparing civil denaturalization cases against (P) and (P) (G) including (P) Upon successful denaturalization, (P) (G) will be served with Notice to Appear (NTAs) and placed in immigration removal proceedings. This sentencing stems from guilty pleas from the defendants on (P) 2012 in San Diego, CA for naturalization fraud charges.

(P) was arrested in Tampa, Florida on 15 May 2012 for Treasury Check Fraud by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Virginia. (P) of the Texaco gas station in San Diego at which Mohdar Abdullah and 9/11 hijacker Nawaf al Hazmi were both employed, along with additional people of interest to Operation Encore. On 17 September 2012 (P) was proffered in Tampa, Florida. During the proffer, (P) echoed previous statement he had made, denying any knowledge of the hijackers' terrorist affiliation and providing no additional details of use to investigators. (P) seemed optimistic about the charges he was facing. (G) investigators anticipate future proffer sessions with (P) on the Operation Encore-related national security issues. During the week of 28 September 2012, (P) proffered a second time. There was no National Security related information disclosed during the second proffer.

In August 2012, (G) sent a lead to JTTF Los Angeles seeking confirmation of two possible current addresses for (P) and (G) individual who was known to have extremist views, and was identified as having met with Omar al Bayoumi in private on the same day as Bayoumi's alleged "chance" first meeting with 9/11 hijackers Nawaf al Hazmi and Khalid al Midhar. FBI Los Angeles confirmed Mala's current residence. (G) is planning to approach (P) for an interview of his role aiding Bayoumi in facilitating the hijacker's arrival and settlement in California, for which (P) has never provided adequate explanation. (G) will conduct the interview with (G) should it be necessary to serve on (P) to obtain a statement.
an individual who, similarly to Mohdar Abdullah, facilitated the day-to-day life of 9/11 hijackers Hazmi and Mihdhar during their time in San Diego, has been identified by FBI San Diego as living in Canada. He is reported to be very concerned about his presence on U.S. no-fly lists in conjunction with the San Diego office, will address seeking an interview of

In June, 2012, NYO investigators, along with AUSA and HQ analysts, traveled to London, UK, to exploit evidence seized in 2001 in New Scotland Yard’s searches of Omar al Bayoumi’s residences and offices. Working directly with SO15 section of Scotland Yard, the document exploitation team reviewed materials and New Scotland Yard’s procedures for searches/evidence collection, discussed the potential for use in trial, and returned to the United States with copies of hundreds of pages of documentation with potential probative value. NYO is undertaking the translation of these documents, to determine relevancy. To date, documents detailing the visits of Mutaib al Sudairy and Adel al Sadhan as well as directions indicating that Bayoumi was very familiar with trips from the Saudi Consulate in L.A. to the King Fahad Mosque, have been uncovered. Both documents provide evidence contradicting direct claims Bayoumi has previously made to FBI investigators, particularly about his actions on the day he allegedly randomly met the 9/11 hijackers, and highlight gaps in Bayoumi’s story that undermine his claims of innocence.

Details on Mohdar Abdullah and his connection to Operation ENCORE:

The FBI is seeking to indict Mohdar Abdullah (Mohdar) in the Southern District of New York (SDNY) for providing material support to 9/11 hijackers Nawaf al-Hazmi and Khalid al-Mihdhar, pursuant to USC 18 section 2339B. Mohdar is the subject of San Diego’s full field investigation, and currently resides in Sweden. The immediate goal of Operation ENCORE is to

Mohdar played a key role facilitating the daily lives and assisting future Flight 77 hijackers Nawaf al-Hazmi and Khalid al-Mihdhar. Shortly after February 4, 2000, al-Bayoumi tasked Mohdar to assist al-Hazmi and al-Mihdhar. Mohdar was also a family friend and associate of Anwar Aulaqi and they may have spent time together with the hijackers. After September 11, 2001 Mohdar was investigated by the FBI for assisting the hijackers. On September 19, 2001 he was arrested by FBI San Diego on charges of immigration fraud for his claim of being a Somali asylee (Mohdar is Yemeni). Mohdar pled guilty to the immigration charges and was deported to Yemen in 2004.

While Mohdar was detained in an immigration facility he bragged to two fellow inmates that he assisted the hijackers. The FBI and the SDNY have debriefed these individuals. Both are cooperative, but there is some prosecutorial concern about their value as witnesses.
In a January, 2012 meeting with FBI NYO, the FBI has also provided with relevant derogatory information on Mohdar via a DIDO, including details of Mohdar’s false U.S. asylum claim.

Recent investigation revealed strong indications that prior to September 11, 2001 Mohdar confided details of his conversations with al-Hazmi and al-Mihdhar to a young woman named (P) and her family are (P) although they claimed to be (P) refugees. They have now gained U.S. citizenship.

On (P) 2012, (P) her parents and her aunt were arrested and charged with immigration fraud in San Diego. The post-arrest debriefings of (P) provided additional evidence of Mohdar’s guilt. However, (P) continues to conceal additional information concerning Mohdar’s involvement with al-Hazmi and al-Mihdhar, as well as the role that (P)’s family played in assisting Mohdar. The impending possibility of criminal and civil penalties facing (P)’s entire family may motivate her to cooperate more fully with the FBI. (P) and her family are scheduled to next appear in court on (P) 2012 for pre-trial motions.

Synopsis of Operation ENCORE:

Operation ENCORE is an investigation into individuals known to have provided substantial assistance to 9/11 hijackers Nawaf al-Hazmi and Khalid al-Mihdhar during their time in California, prior to the attacks. Operation ENCORE main subjects include Fahad al-Thumairy, Omar Ahmed al-Bayoumi, and Musaad al-Jarrah. These subjects provided (or directed others to provide) the hijackers with assistance in daily activities, including procuring living quarters, financial assistance, and assistance in obtaining flight lessons and driver’s licenses. Operation ENCORE seeks to prove these subjects provided such assistance with the knowledge that al-Hazmi and al-Mihdhar were here to commit an act of terrorism.

Fahad al-Thumairy was the Imam at the King Fahad Mosque near Los Angeles, California when al-Hazmi and al-Mihdhar first arrived in the United States. Al-Thumairy immediately assigned an individual to take care of them during their time in the Los Angeles area.

Omar al-Bayoumi was living in San Diego on a student visa, despite not attending classes, and receiving a salary from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for job duties he never performed. Shortly after arriving in Los Angeles, the two hijackers had an allegedly accidental meeting with al-Bayoumi, who claims to have been in Los Angeles on personal business. At this meeting, al-Bayoumi advised the hijackers to relocate to San Diego, which they did. Once in San Diego, al-Bayoumi assisted the hijackers with a place to live, opening a bank account, and also assigned two individuals to care for them, one of whom was Mohdar Abdullah.
Telephone numbers assigned to the Saudi Arabian Embassy (SAE) in Washington, D.C., where Musaed al-Jarrah was the director of the Islamic Affairs Department, had significant telephonic contact with al-Thumairy and al-Bayoumi while the hijackers were in the Los Angeles and San Diego areas. There is evidence that al-Jarrah had possible links to al Qaeda and tasked al-Thumairy and al-Bayoumi with assisting the hijackers.
In the late 1990's and up to September 11, 2001, Omar Albayoumi was paid a monthly stipend as a cooptee of the Saudi General Intelligence Presidency (GIP) via
then Ambassador Prince Bandar bin Sultan Al Saud. The information

Albayoumi obtained on persons of interest in the Saudi community in Los Angeles

and San Diego and other issues, which met certain GIP intelligence

requirements, would be forwarded to Bandar. Bandar would then inform the GIP of

items of interest to the GIP for further investigation/vetting or follow up

Omar Bayoumi was a source of investigative interest following the 9/11 attacks for his support of
9/11 hijackers while living in California. Allegations of Albayoumi's involvement with Saudi intelligence
were not confirmed at the time of the 9/11 Commission Report. The above information confirms these
allegations. Albayoumi, at the time he was operating in California, was presumably employed with the
civil aviation authority.

For identification purposes a review of visas identified Albayoumi as follows:

Omar A M Al Bayoumi

DOB: (P-1)

(J-3)

NFI was provided on this application. Writer could not locate prior visas.
Title: Connections to the Attacks of September 11, 2001

Date: 07/23/2021

From: (G)

Contact: (S)

Approved By: (S)

Drafted By: (S)

Case ID #: (A), (G), (J-1)

PENTTBOMB (A), (G), (J-1)

PENTBOMB (A), (G), (J-1)

CASE (MC) 182 (A), (G), (J-1) MAJOR

(F)
Title: Connections to the Attacks of September 11, 2001
Re: 07/23/2021

Synopsis: To file. To provide summary and historical information for subsequent agents of

Administrative Notes: Attached to this EC is a document summarizing the connections between the 9/11 investigation and elements affiliated with the Saudi Arabian government in the U.S. This replaces Serial which was intended as a draft for review but was serialized. Serial will be removed at a later date.

Enclosure(s): Enclosed are the following items:
1. Saudi 9/11 Connections

Details:

PURPOSE:
The purpose of this communication is to consolidate information related to the involvement of personnel and entities controlled by the Saudi Arabian Government (SAG), the Embassy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (EKSA) and its affiliates within the United States with the attacks of September 11, 2001 (9/11 Attacks / PENTTBOMB). Such an analysis is deemed essential for future case agents of this program to understand the origin of the investigation. Due to the purpose noted, this document only discusses entities that are part of or closely tied to the Saudi Arabian government. Other aspects of the 9/11/2001 investigation are only noted if related to this purpose. This report should not be considered an intelligence assessment and is not intended as such.
Title: Connections to the Attacks of September 11, 2001
Re: 07/23/2021

An additional purpose of this communication is to document investigations and supporting documentation regarding the Saudi (Wahhabi) Salafi/militant network that was created, funded, directed and supported by the KSA and its affiliated organizations and diplomatic personnel within the U.S. As Saudi government officials and intelligence officers were directly operating and supporting the entities involved with this network, their involvement with the activities of these organizations/individuals would logically be supposed to have the knowledge or concurrence of the KSA government. This knowledge and/or concurrence by the SAG is related to the 9/11 investigation not only be the direct involvement of some personnel but also via the creation of a larger network for such activities.

In addition, the below analysis will update information available on the ties of some of these entities to Saudi Arabian intelligence services. Much of the publicly known information regarding the 9/11/2001 terrorist attacks was documented in the 9/11 Commission Report which was published in 2004. Thus much available information from subsequent and ongoing investigations was not noted in the Commission’s Report. In addition, the classified “28 pages” was subsequently de-classified and investigations since 2004 shed additional light on the information that was contained within these 28 pages which were created in 2004 as part of the original Commission Report.

There was located within the EKSA the offices of the Islamic Affairs Department and the office of Dawa (or Propagation). Investigation of the 9/11 hijackers and their support networks identified significant connections to these offices either directly or via the Saudi Arabian Consulate in Los Angeles. As such, a primary portion of this communication will focus on these offices and connections to the 9/11 hijackers. In addition, the SAG/EKSA was also involved with the funding and creation of a multitude of Islamic organizations, offices, imams and other religious figures within the US – many of which were involved with militant ideology. Several of these were known to be tied directly to Prince Bandar and/or were involved with the collection of information on US based Islamic entities. As the propagation of militant ideology would naturally provide justification for those who were in the hijacker’s support network – these organizations will also be listed below (below is not an all-inclusive list as this would be too large).

Administration:

(PentTBomb) was originally formed as in 2002 as a result of the PENTTBOMB investigation identifying connections between the 9/11 hijackers, their support network and individuals associated with the SAG. As is well known, 15 of the deceased 19 hijackers were from Saudi Arabia with a possible 20th - Mohammed Algahtani - subsequently captured in Afghanistan and confined at Guantanamo Bay after unsuccessfully attempting to enter the US. At the time of creation of there was a few investigations of some Saudi Arabian