

Members of Congress, 9/11 Families Demand: Release the 28 Pages Now!

Here is an edited transcript of the [press conference](#) held March 12 by Reps. Walter B. Jones (R-N.C.), Stephen Lynch (D-Mass.), and Thomas Massie (R-Ky.), calling for declassification of the suppressed 28 pages of the Congressional 9/11 Inquiry. Also participating were representatives of the 9/11 Families United for Justice Against Terrorism. The press conference received a videotaped message from former Sen. Bob Graham of Florida, who co-chaired the Joint Congressional Inquiry into Intelligence Community Activities Before and After the Terrorist Attacks.

Sen. Bob Graham: Did They Act Alone?

Good morning. I appreciate the opportunity to be a part of this conference, which is going to be discussing some of the most important issues affecting the relationships within Congress, and the Executive relationships between government and its people, and the national security of our nation. It's very significant that this conference is being held, the day after Senator Feinstein made her statements relative to the relationship between the inquiry which has been conducted by the Senate Intelligence Committee and the CIA. Because what we're going to be talking about today, raises many of the same fundamental issues.

Immediately after 9/11, the leadership of the House and Senate asked the chairs of the House and Senate Intelligence Committees to do what Congress had never done in 200 years, and that is, to form a joint committee for purposes of conducting an inquiry as to what had happened in 9/11, with particular focus on the role of the United States intelligence community.

We spent the better part of 15 months working on that inquiry. We had staff that represented persons who were knowledgeable in each of the intelligence communities. We had persons who had experience in the Department of Justice, in other law-enforcement-related agencies of the Federal government. We conducted hundreds of interviews, read thousands of pages of docu-

ments, and in December of 2002, produced an 800-plus-page report. That report took over six months in the declassification process, and when the report was returned in publicly releasable form, there were a number of specific redactions. There were names and places and other specific pieces of evidence which were withheld.

But the most stunning thing, was that an entire chapter, 28 pages, was censored, from word one to the last word of the chapter. That chapter dealt primarily with who financed 9/11. That was a very fundamental question, because it went to an even larger question. And that is: *Did those who committed that heinous attack on Sept. 11, did they act alone, or were they supported by a network of individuals?*

All of the people who have been in leadership positions of investigations into 9/11 have come away with the feeling that it was implausible to believe that these 19 people, most of whom didn't speak English; most of whom had only been in the United States for—if any—a very brief period of time, could have carried out such a complex operation, which required completion of the planning, the practicing, and then, finally, the execution of the plot.

A key part of that question of whether they acted alone or had support, related to the financing of 9/11: How could these people have financed a project that was as expensive, in terms of the cost of the 19 individuals, without having some support network? That missing chapter provides evidence that would be important to answer the question: Did these people act alone?

That chapter has now been censored, since the Summer of 2003, for over 10 years. Whatever reason there may have been for the initial censorship, has long since passed. At the time that we heard that it was being censored, Sen. Dick Shelby, a Republican from Alabama, who was the vice-chair of the Senate Committee, and myself as chair, both agreed that there was no reason to censor that 28-page, important chapter, for national security reasons.



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Rep. Walter B. Jones (R-N.C.), joined by Reps. Stephen Lynch (D-Mass.), and Thomas Massie (R-Ky.), addresses the press conference at the Cannon House Office Building, on March 12. Jones holds up a copy of Bob Graham's book, *Intelligence Matters*, which exposes the role of the Saudi kingdom in 9/11.

But here we are, 10 years later, and it continues to be censored.

I want to thank the Members of the Congress who are taking the leadership in using their prerogatives, and I think, obligations, that Congress has in our system, to demand that the Executive release this information. It is important for a number of reasons: It's important for justice. There are thousands of Americans, who are currently litigating against countries like Saudi Arabia, and other entities, for their complicity in 9/11, and therefore, their responsibility to accept some of the horrific cost which have befallen those families because of the loss of a loved one. That justice to date has been denied, in part, because important information that would sustain their claims has been withheld, such as this 28-page chapter.

Second, it's important to set the historical record correct. If we are going to not repeat the past, but learn from the past, in order to avoid incidents such as 9/11 in the future, we need to know everything we can, as truthfully and fully as possible, about what actually happened on 9/11, and in the preparation for 9/11.

And finally, it's a matter of current national security: If you feel, as I do, that there was a network of support

for the 9/11 hijackers, what reason do we have to believe that that network was abandoned, immediately after 9/11? What reason do we have to believe that it's not in existence today, ready to be used for a future attack against the United States?

These are the issues that are at stake in the question of whether the Executive branch, with concurrence and leadership of the Members of Congress, will make this information available to the American public, so we will be a more just, a more informed, and a more secure nation in the future.

I again express my appreciation for those who are leading this effort, and I wish you well. Thank you.

We Must Have the Truth

Rep. Walter B. Jones: We're going to officially start the press conference. I'm going to speak very briefly. Then I'm going to call on Congressman Stephen Lynch, and he will reintroduce himself for the press, and then Congressman Thomas Massie, and then the families.... The families that are here today, and they again will reintroduce themselves—Terry Strada, Alice Hoagland, and Sylvia Carver. These are family members who lost loved ones during 9/11, so therefore, I will let them explain why they are here today, and why they support H. Res. 428.

Several years ago, I read this book written by Bob Graham; it's called *Intelligence Matters*. The subtitle tells you more than the title of the book, and it's *The CIA, The FBI, Saudi Arabia, and the Failure of America's War on Terror*. If you remember, Bob Graham was one of the co-chairmen of the 9/11 Commission, and he, for a number of years, has been outspoken on this issue of the 28 pages, of why the 28 pages in the report were classified. And he has been calling for a declassification of the 28 pages. I want to give him the credit today, because he is the one that got me interested in this issue. I'm from North Carolina; I have never met with so

many families that have lost loved ones in the three tragedies that happened on 9/11.

After reading the information, the way the process works, very quickly: A member of the House has to write a letter to the Chairman, Mike Rogers (Ala.) and the Ranking Member, Dutch Ruppersberger (Md.), and ask permission to go down in a classified setting to read the information. So we write the letter, and mine took about three or four weeks before they responded back to say that we give you the authorization. The room is guarded, which we can understand, and it's very much needed, probably. And then, when you go in to read the 28 pages, you have someone sitting with you, so you cannot take any notes; it's whatever you might remember. And we cannot divulge, or we would be in serious trouble here as a Member of Congress if we divulged any of the information that we read.

A couple of other points, very quickly: I do not think that a nation like America will remain strong if the nation does not demand the truth. And after reading the 28 pages, I can honestly say, my opinion—I can't speak for these two men—there's nothing that deals with national security. There are other issues, but *not* national security issues. That's why the call by the families across this nation, with three families being here today, the families have called on Congress for a number of years, along with Sen. Bob Graham, to declassify the 28 pages.

And I want to thank the families for being here today; I will close this press conference and we will allow you to ask questions. But with that, I'm going to ask Stephen Lynch from Massachusetts if he will speak; and then Thomas Massie from Kentucky will follow him, and then the families will come up. So, thank you for being here today. Stephen Lynch is a co-sponsor of this legislation; Thomas Massie has joined Stephen and myself, and four other members of the House in this legislation calling for the President to release this information. And so therefore, we need for you to put pressure on your Representative back home to join in this effort for the truth.

Stephen Lynch.

Crucial to 'Going Forward'

Rep. Stephen F. Lynch: Okay, thank you Walter. Thank you, my friend. I want, first of all, to thank the families for being here. As much as we might encourage members to go and read the classified information and to join us, really, the power of the families—and I have a lot of families in my district, and from Massa-

chusetts, that lost loved ones on those flights coming out of Boston, so I just want to thank you for turning your loss and your grief into a positive step, for all of our country. And I think it's very important to have your support, we appreciate it.

I want to thank you all for being here. Today, we're here to bring attention to House Res. 428, which Congressman Jones and I have jointly introduced, and which Congressman Massie has co-sponsored.

In December, we initially introduced this bill, and this important resolution calls for the declassification of the 28-page section of the Joint Congressional Inquiry into intelligence activities before and after the terrorist attacks of September of 2001. It is important to remember that these were not simply sections that were redacted, which is quite common in these types of intelligence reports. This 28 pages was *excised*. So the entire section, 28 pages, was removed from the body of work that was actually presented to the public. . . .

The American people, and the families of the victims in particular, deserve answers and deserve the opportunity to have a greater understanding of these events, and that has yet to happen, unfortunately. Twelve years after the attacks, many unanswered questions still remain. I strongly believe that these pages contain information that is vital to a full understanding of the attacks on 9/11, and the circumstances that led to them.

But this is not only a question of transparency, which Walter talked to. It's not just that transparency is good in this case, and looking back and answering questions. I think also, these 28 pages, the nature of the disclosures here, I think is instructive to our foreign policy going forward. So it is not just looking backward, it is actually informing Congress to make sound, solid decisions going forward. That might be the most valuable. While there is certainly decency and justification for releasing these documents, there's also, I think, instructive value going forward.

I read the classified sections this past October, after being encouraged to do so by my friend Mr. Jones, and after reading them, it became clear to me that we owed it to the families of the victims, and to the American public, to work to make these pages available.

I do want to just add a little of the details, as Walter correctly laid out the situation; it's a somewhat cumbersome process for a Member of Congress who has 9,000 other things to do; but you've got to submit your letter down, then you go down, and they sit with you, and you really don't have an opportunity to answer questions.

And you're not allowed to take any notes.

But after reading the 28 pages, I only said one thing during the time that I was there, and at the end of the day, I informed both intelligence officers who were there with me that day, I said, "I need to be honest with you." And I said, "When I get up from this table and I get out that door," I said, "I am going to sponsor a resolution before the United States Congress to make this information public." And they both scratched down notes of their own—they were allowed to keep notes. But I said, "That's how important I think this is"; and I said, "I think it's important that I be honest with you, because I feel so strongly about this."

I'm pleased to be working with my colleague from North Carolina, Congressman Walter Jones and Mr. Massie from Kentucky. I think Mr. [Michael] Grimm from New York is on board. I know that—I'm trying to think—a Congressman from California. . .

Rep. Jones: Alcee Hastings.

Rep. Lynch: Alcee Hastings from Florida; California—Dana Rohrabacher is also on board. And so we have growing interest, because of the involvement of the families of the victims. And we want to make sure that these pages see the light of day. And I want to take this opportunity just to urge my colleagues in the House of Representatives to review these pages and to work with us to ensure that they are declassified, to encourage the President to take that step and declassify these documents.

Thank you: May God bless you, may God have mercy on the victims and their families, and may God continue to bless these United States of America. Thank you.

Rep. Jones: Thank you, Steve. Thomas?

I Challenge You To Rethink Everything

Rep. Thomas Massie: I'm going to be brief. I want to echo the statements of Congressman Jones and Congressman Lynch. . . . I'm Thomas Massie from Kentucky. This is something that the families deserve to know, this information. It's been a decade, over a decade, 13 years, since this event happened, and we've had a narrative in the media and in the press, and in the collective American conscience, of what happened that day, but I don't think it's fully informed, and it won't be fully informed until everybody gets to see these 28 pages.

And just to echo what Congressman Lynch said: I'm here for the families, but I'm also here for our country to look forward: We have to decide how to prevent another 9/11-type event from happening. Until you have

the full picture of what actually happened, the intelligence picture, how can you participate in that debate? How can we know what we do will prevent another 9/11 from happening? And how can we know that some of the things that, maybe, we would otherwise endeavor to do, might be overreactions?

So, also, I want to talk about the experience of sitting down and reading these 28 pages: It's in a room, where it's soundproof and you're escorted in there, you're escorted out, and there are no notes. But this is sort of shocking when you read it. As I read it—and we all had our own experience—I had to stop every couple pages and just sort of absorb, and try to rearrange my understanding of history for the past 13 years and years leading up to that. It challenges you to rethink everything. And so, I think the whole country needs to go through that; it's going to be difficult and it could be embarrassing, but that is no reason to keep the truth from the American people.

I want to finish with two challenges: I want to challenge all the Congressmen who have not read these 28 pages, who have the ability to go read these 28 pages, to do it for your constituents. There are 435 districts in this country: Every Congressman needs to see these 28 pages. *Then*, I challenge them to co-sponsor Congressman Jones's and Congressman Lynch's bill, like I have.

And finally, the final challenge I want to issue, is to those who would keep these pages secret: You need to have your own press conference; you need to be held to a standard to answer the questions: Why do you want to keep these 28 pages secret? In my estimation, as shocking as the 28 pages are, and as much as they sort of rearranged my understanding of what happened, I don't think it would hurt our national security to release this, and it would give families the answers they deserve, as well.

Thank you very much.

Rep. Jones: Thank you, Thomas. Terry Strada, could you come up and introduce yourself again?

No One Has Been Held Accountable

Terry Strada: Yes, I will. Thank you.

Hi, my name is Terry Strada. It is an honor and a privilege to be here today, and I thank you for your time. I co-chair the JASTA [Justice Against the Sponsors of Terrorism Act] Action Committee with Sharon Premoli, and for the last 12 years, have served on the steering committee of 9/11 Families United for Justice Against Terrorism. I speak on behalf of over 6,000 family members and survivors. I am joined today with



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Terry Strada, a steering committee member of the 9/11 Families United for Justice Against Terrorism, whose husband was killed in the World Trade Center on 9/11, urged passage of H.Res. 428, which calls for release of the 28 pages.

other members of the 9/11 community, and on behalf of everyone here, I would like to thank Congressmen Walter Jones and Stephen Lynch for introducing House Res. 428.

I also thank former Sen. Bob Graham, who has tirelessly advocated for disclosure of a section of the Joint Inquiry's report that has been kept a secret for *12 long years*.

I want to tell you why House Res. 428 is so important, and introduce to you fellow-9/11 family members who are also here to convey why we need this resolution to pass. Like all of them, I suffered a heart-breaking personal loss on Sept. 11. My husband, Tom, was killed while at work for Cantor Fitzgerald in the North Tower of the World Trade Center on the 104th floor. He was the love of my life. Our children were seven, four, and four days old. Tom was a devoted family man, and we miss him, each and every day.

Because of 9/11, my children are three amongst 3,000 children, who suffered the loss of a parent at the hands of terrorism, and are growing up today without a mother or a father. Ground Zero rescue workers are sick and dying to this day. Even after 12 long years, the death toll continues to rise.

I stand here, today, in support of House Res. 428, because I don't believe people should get away with murder, and that is exactly what has happened. The

people who gave financial, material, and logistical support to the 19 hijackers, though equally responsible along with the actual hijackers, have been held free from any accountability. No one has been held accountable in the eyes of justice for the murder of thousands of innocent men, women, and children, killed here, in America, in our country, on our soil.

One chief obstacle to accountability has been the fixation on obsessive secrecy afforded to protect those responsible for the murder of our friends and our family on 9/11. I say "our" because I recognize that on 9/11, we all lost someone we love, and what brings us here today, should concern *all* Americans. While my children and I lost Tom in that attack, the secrecy that continues to protect the behind-the-scenes supporters of

terrorists continues to threaten all Americans. For our own security, we cannot continue to allow our government to keep secret the most crucial facts of the worst terrorist attack on American soil.

I am not speaking hypothetically: The very subject of the 28 pages, torn from the Congressional Report investigating the 9/11 attacks, *is* the specific sources of foreign support for the 9/11 hijackers. Incredibly, for over a decade, we have been denied the truth about who else was part of the planning and implementation of 9/11.

In fact, on Aug. 1, 2003, Senators Chuck Schumer and Sam Brownback, joined by 44 other Senators, including now former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and current Secretary of State John Kerry, wrote a letter urging then President George W. Bush to declassify the 28 pages. Imagine that, 2003, ten years ago.

In that letter, they said, and I quote, "Unfortunately, because all but two pages of the entire section have been deemed too secret for public disclosure, the American people remain in the dark about other countries that may have facilitated the terrorist attacks." End of quote.

In my book, deeming "too secret" equates to lying.

Why was the decision made to keep the truth from my family and the American people? Sadly, the answer has become painfully clear. As I see it, and I hear my views echoed by the honorable men here, who have

read and even been involved in writing (which is Sen. Bob Graham), the real concern is not about our security or protecting the American people from terrorist complicity, as much as it is about protecting the Saudi regime from embarrassment or any public penalty.

Sadly, concern for Saudi relationships has taken precedence over the safety of the American people. I am not here to advocate the public release of information that would place our nation's security at risk, but I also cannot condone excessive secrecy, simply to appease the so-called allies while they plot against us. And as you heard today, the representatives here, they do not believe anything in this report jeopardizes national security. These are honorable public servants, and I believe them.

In short, this is not an academic question: We don't simply want to know the truth. The truth must be exposed. If our leaders are willing to navigate the thorny problems of an increasingly dangerous world, al-Qaeda is pure evil and so are their bankrollers. And if Americans are generally being asked to offer responsible guidance to their elected leadership, as we should be, we must be informed truthfully. In fact, isn't that one of the purposes for which the Report on the Joint Inquiry was authored?

It is our responsibility as victims' family members and survivors of 9/11, to fight for the truth to be told. It is our government's responsibility to expose other criminals of 9/11, the bankrollers, no matter who they may be. And it is you, the press's, responsibility to report the whole truth, to report who funded the terrorist attacks that took place here, over a decade ago, and who continue to fund attacks taking place all over the world. The omission of such facts leaves us all less informed, more vulnerable, and less safe.

Today, we have an opportunity to stop the secrets and tell the truth. I urge every Member of Congress to take the time and read those 28 pages. I ask every Member to join us today in our request for support of Resolution 428.

I also ask the President of the United States, our President: Mr. President, please declassify these 28



Alice Hoagland, a leader of the 9/11 families, said, "Well, if you accept the word of Sen. Bob Graham, you'll realize that Saudi Arabia plays a key role in 9/11..."

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pages now. Not next year, not in the future. Make good on your promise you made to the 9/11 families in 2009, and allow the truth to be told.

I will leave you with one final thought: On 9/11, thankfully, you were very lucky. Only by the courageous actions of a few passengers on the doomed airline Flight 93, were your lives spared. You were the targets intended to be killed next, and had that occurred, it would be your family members here today, insisting that the truth be told.

Thank you.

Flight 93 Was Aimed at the Capitol Dome

Alice Hoagland: Good morning, everybody. My name is Alice Hoagland; I'm usually about four octaves higher, but I caught a cold on my way to Washington.

I'm very grateful this morning for the words of Congressman Massie and Congressman Lynch and Congressman Jones. I'm so grateful that this horrible situation is finally going to come to an end.

As Terry alluded to, Flight 93, according to its hijackers, according to Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the mastermind of 9/11, so-called, Flight 93 was intended to smash into the Capitol dome. Instead, because of the action of a handful of guys onboard Flight 93, it smashed instead into the soft soil in southwest Pennsylvania, killing no one except those onboard: forty innocent people, and four loathsome, thuggish hijackers.

I join this group of 9/11 family members and these fine Congressmen in our effort to make sure that the full truth about 9/11 is brought forward. Before there was the 9/11 Commission, there was the Joint Inquiry into the intelligence community activities of the terrorist attacks of 9/11, and that was published in December of 2002; and as Congressman Jones has said, Sen. Bob Graham was one of the important writers of the 28 excised pages. Those pages are unavailable to us, and they're just about unavailable to the Congressmen, I gather, from what they're telling me. It would be a very intimidating thing to go down flights of stairs and read something and wish you could take notes, and not be allowed to because of the watchful gaze of a security officer.

I'm going to quote Senator Graham, on why it's important that the President of the United States, Barack Obama, reconsider this ill-advised notion that those 28 pages do not affect us today. Senator Graham says, "In this case, the Presidents have withheld aggressively and extensively, and by that, have both kept the public from fully knowing what happened, because there has been no flow of information, that contributed to the issue now increasingly being looked upon as one of past history."

And if we look upon the lessons of 9/11 as past history, we do so at our peril. Because as we know, from this tragic news coming out of Malaysia, the specter of terrorism still lives with us; we still face it every day, and if we become complacent in the face of these 28 unavailable pages, and in the face of mounting evidence that we are still the targets of terrorism, we will be affected by terrorism.

My heart goes out to you all for making sure that this issue stays alive, as I sit in fellowship with the folks here who have lost their loved ones, at the Pentagon, at the World Trade Center, and on Flight 93. Thank you very much.

Sylvia Carver: Hello, my name is Sylvia Carver. I am one of the 9/11 families. My sister, our sister, Sharon Ann Carver, was murdered at the Pentagon on 9/11, along with 183 other loyal Americans. Today, I would



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Sylvia Carter, who lost her sister in the attack on the Pentagon, said, "if the President of the United States would just declassify these pages, we will have the answers that we have been seeking for more than 12 years now."

like to thank the Congressmen for making it possible for us to speak today, here, and I would also like to thank the press for being here.

One of our purposes for being here is because we would like the 28 pages released, and we would like the support for all Congress members in supporting this, as well as the President of the United States, to release the 28 pages.

On 9/11 we lost our sister, Sharon; she was 38 years old. She didn't have a chance to fall in love, get married and have children, so we have nothing left of Sharon, except our memory. All that we ask is that we be given a chance to seek justice and hold the murderers of 9/11 accountable for what they've done. As any family members who have lost someone to a crime, we deserve closure, we deserve the right to face these cowards in a court of law, and we deserve answers, and that's all that we are seeking here today. We deserve answers, we have a right to know.

And if Congress will support this declassification of the 28 pages, and if the President of the United States would just declassify these pages, we will have the answers that we have been seeking for more than 12 years now. We have the right to know the full story behind 9/11. We have the right to know what's in the 28 pages, so *please*, declassify these pages, so our families and all the families of 9/11, as well as the American people,

can have the full truth. We deserve this, so we can move on with our life, and have closure.

Thank you....

Q: Congressman, what does this missing section tell us? Why do we need to know about it? What is in it that we need to know?

Rep. Jones: Well, what the families have said: that this information that has not been declassified, which President Obama said in 2009, meeting with the families, one of them just stated this, that he would declassify this information. It is information that will help to bring closure, not totally, but closure to the tragedy of 9/11.

Q: Did President Bush...

Rep. Jones: We cannot answer any more questions, because I am not, nor are these two Members of Congress, going to do anything that says we violated the oath that we've taken, so that with that, if you would like, let Stephen [Lynch] speak, or Thomas [Massie]. But then I want the families to come up, and we'll take five or six questions, because they've been here, this is very painful.

We Are Beginning To Beat the Drum Today

Rep. Lynch: I think you all understand the nature of classified information and the obligations that we're under. You're free to ask questions, but please, don't ask myself or the other Congressmen who have read the information to disclose classified information. That would not serve us or serve the country well. There's a way to get this in the public; we're taking those steps. This is the proper way to do it. We do believe it should be made public and that's what this resolution would do; it would call upon members of Congress to ask the President to declassify. The President—it's his order that keeps these pages hidden. So that's the way it was classified, and we can undo that through a democratic process, and that's what we're going to cover.

Q: Congressman, what sort of feedback have you gotten from the leadership on this resolution? My understanding is, perhaps incorrectly, that it's sitting in committee, and there hasn't been any action on it. That would seem to suggest there isn't a whole lot of support.

Rep. Jones: Real quickly, because I want the families to have their time with you, if they want to have that time.

This is the beginning of a process. We have done radio shows nationally; we have great interest, and

newspapers have called: We are beginning to beat the drum today. That's what this news conference is about, is beating the drum, and every beat of the drum says, "*We want the truth! We want the truth!*" And that's what this is about, and it's not going to go away. Today is not the end of this effort. Today is the beginning, and we're going to win this for the families, and for the American people.

I'm going to let the ladies [from the 9/11 Families] come up. If you've got five or six questions, then we Members of Congress can talk to you afterwards, but this is stressful for them, I know.

Q: What's in the report that'll help you? What do you need help on?

Alice Hoagland: Well, there are two books I'd recommend to you, written by Sen. Bob Graham. One of them is called *Intelligence Matters*. It's a work of non-fiction, and he has gone into fiction by writing *The Keys to the Kingdom*, which is a suspense thriller, a fiction novel.... Senator Graham has expressed that we need to more thoroughly look at the actions of Saudi Arabia, in the events of 9/11. He has said this freely. I've listened to his interviews and I've tried to educate myself a little bit about what Senator Graham, what has triggered his extreme concern about this: that extreme concern which has brought the support of the other Congressmen.

He helped write those 28 pages, and he is convinced that they need to be brought into the public eye, in spite of the excision by President Bush and the continuation of that excision by President Obama, in violation of his promise to the 9/11 families, that he would work to get those 28 pages....

The Truth About the Saudi Role Needs To Come Out

Strada: ...I think, maybe if I can explain to you for a moment, there is this other layer to 9/11 that really hasn't been exposed. We know about the hijackers, and we know what happened. But we don't know about, or what is now coming to light, are these cells that were out in California, Sarasota [Fla.], and Los Angeles; Little Falls, Va. There were groups of Saudi Arabian nationals that were here, for years, before and during the 9/11 hijackers' time in this country, giving them the financial support that they needed to carry out their crimes against us. It's not cheap to live here, so if you're here for two years, and you have apartments and you're renting cars, and you are buying first-class airline tickets to practice

your acts, where was that money coming from?

What we are being led to believe, it's all or most of it was coming from Saudi Arabia. And that needs to come out, that truth needs to be told. It should scare the hell out of all Americans that they were living here, amongst us for two years, doing this before they actually carried out 9/11. And to me, that's a big reason why these 28 pages need to be released. It speaks to the financial assistance that was given to some of the nineteen 9/11 hijackers while they were here, living in this country for nearly two years.

Rep. Jones: Yes.

EIR: Two questions for the family members. Number 1, you referenced the meetings that took place, I believe in February 2009, in the Oval Office. What was the understanding that you got from President Obama, if, obviously it was a priority for him to meet with you, one of his very first weeks in office as President? What's your understanding of what he actually promised to do, at the time, if you could say something about that?

Strada: Yes.... I do know from a 9/11 family member that was there, who has told me herself, personally, that they asked him, "Will you declassify the 28 pages?" and he said, yes, that he would.

Hoagland: Good! That's wonderful!

Rep. Jones: We can take one or two more questions, and then we'll bring it to an end. Anyone?...

EIR: I understand that the Federal courts have recently reinstated a lawsuit and have basically said that a number of named individual Saudi officials, and at least one private entity, DAL Aviation, are now once again subject to Federal court. Could you say something about that action?

Hoagland: Well, we know that the release of those 28 pages would be very interesting, vital, for the pursuit of actions against Saudi Arabia by the 9/11 family members.

But beyond that, it's important to release those 28 pages, because our national security is going to be threatened going forward. If we continue to think of Saudi Arabia as an ally, we will be led down the primrose path. There are things that Saudi Arabia has done to help us, but it's remarkable, what I learned in this work of fiction by Sen. Bob Graham, *The Keys to the Kingdom!* It's remarkable, the role of Saudi Arabia: important, prominent families, called the "Golden Chain,"

and how very much they helped to ensconce people, Saudi Arabian nationals, into San Diego and into a town in New Jersey, and down in Sarasota, Fla.—which especially rankles the Senator because that's his hometown, his home state.

Rep. Jones: All right, we'll take a question back here, and this will be the last question, but you can see the ladies if they want to talk when we've finished the news conference.

Q: But don't you think there's at least some national interest in the relationship with Saudi Arabia? Obviously, the Administration and the State Department think that there is a value there. And also, therefore, in having the 28 pages classified for so long?

Hoagland: I think that it is extremely valuable to maintain our relationship with Saudi Arabia. But I think that it is important for us to go into it with our eyes open, to understand Saudi Arabia's sympathies and its past actions; to realize, that it is not innocuous, that the relationship is flawed! And it is political, in some respects.

Q: How do you know the 28 pages deal Saudi Arabia?

Hoagland: Well, because Senator Graham has said so....

Strada: You will see his video. It will become available after this press conference. He has said it a number of times.

Hoagland: Well, if you accept the word of Sen. Bob Graham, you'll realize that Saudi Arabia plays a key role in 9/11, and is mentioned frequently in this 28 pages....

Q: Could I pose one last question to members of Congress? And I understand this is classified and you get trouble if you reveal names and specifics. But is it fair to infer from what you've said that what is contained in the 28 pages deals with the activities of a foreign government that worked against the United States?

Rep. Jones: As Stephen Lynch just whispered to me: that the pages speak for themselves, and if these pages are made public, then you will have the answer you're looking for.

Thank each and every one. The families get the biggest thanks: This pain has been with them for over 12 years, and we thank you. You are important to whether we get this declassified or not, so thank you for being here, and my colleagues in Congress, thank you so much.

Hoagland: We're so glad you're here.