



SECURE FREEDOM

It's what you want. It's what we do.

11 May 2015

The Honorable Ron Wyden
United States Senate
221 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Martin Heinrich
United States Senate
303 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mazie Hirono
United States Senate
330 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Wyden, Heinrich, and Hirono:

I am a former CIA analyst and House Intelligence Committee staff member. I am writing in response to your May 8, 2015 letter to CIA Director John Brennan asking that he apologize for an alleged “unauthorized and unprecedented search of Senate files” by CIA during the investigation of the CIA enhanced interrogation program by the Democratic staff of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence (SSCI).

I am dismayed to see members of an intelligence oversight committee continue to circulate this utterly false allegation that led to last year’s CIA spying on Congress flap. As you know, the Obama Justice Department investigated this matter and declined to prosecute or open a formal investigation because it found no violations of the law. A CIA review panel headed up by former Democratic Senator Evan Bayh came to the conclusion that there was no wrongdoing by CIA personnel in this case.

This matter has nothing to with misconduct by CIA officers. The real issue here is gross misconduct by Democratic staff members of the Senate Intelligence Committee. I discussed this in my February 3, 2015 *National Review* article, “Who Oversees the Overseers.” A copy is attached. In this article, I describe serious violations by the SSCI Democratic staff, including removing classified documents from a CIA building without authorization, smuggling a camera into the CIA, and hacking a CIA computer system to access documents that the staff were not authorized to read that were protected by attorney-client and executive privileges.

The Center for Security Policy
SecureFreedom.org

1901 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW | Suite 201 | Washington, D.C. 20006
202-835-9077 | 202-835-9066 (fax)

You say in your letter that "it is vitally urgent for the American public to have confidence that senior intelligence officials respect U.S. laws and the Constitution, including our democratic system of checks and balances." While I agree with this statement, what is at stake in this case is how misconduct by the SSCI staff and the refusal of Democratic committee members to hold them accountable has seriously undermined the bond of trust between Congress and American intelligence agencies.

From my contacts in U.S. intelligence agencies and on the intelligence committees, I know the SSCI staff's misconduct in this case will make it much harder for the Senate and House Intelligence Committees to conduct robust oversight of U.S. intelligence.

Senator Wyden and Heinrich, it is time for you to stop making false charges against the CIA on how it reacted to criminal activity by the SSCI Democratic staff during the enhanced interrogation investigation. Instead, you must begin an investigation of this misconduct and take steps to reassure American intelligence officers that blatantly political behavior by SSCI staff and members which violates the law and classification rules will never happen again.

Senator Hirono, I know you are a new member of SSCI and were not involved in the fight over this matter last year. I hope you will read my attached article to learn about what really happened in this case and separate yourself from the wild accusations Senators Wyden, Heinrich and Udall have made about it.

Sincerely yours,



Fred Fleitz
Senior Vice President for Policy and Programs
Center for Security Policy
1901 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 201
Washington, DC 20006
(240) 422-5983

cc: Senator Richard Burr
Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Mitch McConnell
Senator Harry Reid
Congressman Devon Nunes
Congressman Adam Schiff
CIA Director John Brennan

Attachment: "Who Oversees the Overseers"