

TRAVIS THORNTON

American Citizen and Patriot
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August 25, 2009

Mr. Eric Holder
Attorney General of the United States
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Holder:

As your Justice Department continues its investigation into the interrogation techniques used by the Central Intelligence Agency during the Global War on Terror, your Department persists in capriciously broadcasting the very methods that have kept this country safe to terrorists abroad. **It is your duty** to stop the slow leak of sensitive information describing our nation's counterterrorism capabilities into the media.

The recent report released by your Inspector General provides a detailed account of the CIA's use of threats against family, mock executions, and a power drill (turned 'on' and 'off' near the head of Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the mastermind of the 9/11 Plot). Simultaneous to the release of this report, and a similar report from the CIA's Inspector General, you have decided to reopen "a dozen or so" prisoner abuse cases, even appointing a special prosecutor in the matter.

Your position on the matter is most plainly stated on the DOJ website: "As a result of my analysis of all of this material, I have concluded that the information known to me warrants opening a preliminary review into whether federal laws were violated in connection with the interrogation of specific detainees at overseas locations."

Your actions in the days ahead could have far-reaching consequences and could quite possibly endanger the lives of many of your fellow Americans.

I understand these reports have been released due to a federal judge's ruling in favor of the American Civil Liberties Union with regards to Freedom of Information Act requests. I also understand your political reasoning to appease the far left in this country. These individuals and agencies, however, will not be satisfied by a simple, objective examination regarding the legality of, and the differences between, the 'standard' and 'enhanced' interrogation techniques used by our intelligence agencies.

Nor are they concerned how effective these interrogation techniques were. According to a declassified CIA effectiveness memo 2005, "the interrogation of Khalid Sheikh Mohammed - once enhanced techniques were employed - led to the discovery of a KSM plot, the 'Second Wave,' 'to use East Asian operatives to crash a hijacked airliner into a building in Los Angeles.'" Put simply, enhanced interrogation saved thousands of American lives.

The far left, apathetic to the effectiveness of these methods or the countless American lives they saved, is not concerned with the destructive ramifications such a candid investigation is now having on the officials at the CIA or the organization as a whole.

You, sir, *should* be concerned with the consequences of your Department's actions. Certain information is not necessary for common knowledge. Your Department's current methods of investigation not only debilitate the work of the Central Intelligence Agency; they undermine and severely demoralize this nation's entire intelligence community.

You may discredit concerns such as these and consider your current endeavors to be noble work. I want to warn you, and your Department, of the *perhaps* unintended consequences.

As your efforts jeopardize the capabilities of the very agencies charged with protecting our nation's security, when we are attacked, whether the attacks are upon our civilian population at home or our soldiers overseas, the blood, sir, will be on your hands. As you know, our soldiers still face threats on a daily basis; a roadside bomb killed four of our soldiers in southern Afghanistan this morning. To operate effectively, our troops necessitate a robust intelligence community. The release of sensitive information as a result of political wrangling debilitates our counterterrorism efforts abroad.

As Attorney General, you are ultimately responsible for the actions of the Department of Justice. Stand tall in the face of adversity and resist the tendency to buckle to the ACLU. The rest of America will thank you. Support your fellow Americans by blocking the release of information that could imperil your nation's security. The ACLU will not stop requesting the declassification of these memos until the previous Administration is indicted for criminal activity. Succumbing to these political motives could eventually end in a national security tragedy.

The DOJ website states, "The highest priority of the Justice Department has been to protect America against acts of terrorism." I ask you, and your Department, to live up to the high calling of that obligation. Thank you for your time regarding this most important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Travis J. Thornton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Travis J. Thornton

P.S. For obvious reasons, I have not included any additional contact information than my email address, as I suppose this letter could be deemed as "fishy," and as a result my civil liberties, seen as equal to those of Khalid Sheikh Mohammed's, could be in danger.

cc: Senator Jeff Sessions, Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Committee
Senator John Cornyn, Member, Senate Judiciary Committee