

To Fight ISIS Terror, Release the 28 Pages

by Nancy Spannaus

Feb. 17—If President Obama is serious about winning a war against ISIS, his first step is clear: Declassify the 28 pages of the 9/11 Congressional Inquiry which deals with the funding of the 2001 attacks on the United States.

There is an increasing clamor for the President to take this step, motivated in no small part by the fact that the world is threatened with a new wave of assaults by jihadi extremists of the same sort which carried out the 9/11 attacks. Even without the release, evidence abounds that these groups, like ISIS, are the ideological, bought-and-paid-for offspring of the Saudi Arabian regime. Yet, President Obama, like his predecessor, chooses to ally with, and cover up for, the Saudi sponsors of these attacks.

Spokesmen for the 9/11 victims' families, as well as former Sen. Bob Graham, co-chair of the Congressional Inquiry, and the leading sponsors of a House resolution to urging release of the pages—Reps. Walter Jones (R-N.C.) and Stephen Lynch (D-Mass.)—have all pointed to the urgency of declassification, as a matter of the *current national security* of the United States. For unless funding for the creation of terrorist groups such as ISIS and al-Qaeda is cut off, there is no way in which the threat can be contained.

Nonetheless, President Obama continues to stone-wall on demands for the 28 pages' release.

H. Res. 14

On Jan. 6, Rep. Walter Jones introduced House Resolution 14, which urges President Obama to use his authority to release the 28 pages to the public in order to provide “a full public understanding of the events and circumstances surrounding the September 11, 2001, attacks upon the United States”; to provide “access to information about the involvement of certain foreign governments in the terrorist attacks of September 2001”; and to give the people of the United States and

the families of the victims of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks . . . full and public disclosure of the results of the Joint Inquiry.”

Support in Congress has grown relatively rapidly. There are now 13 co-sponsors, almost evenly distributed between the political parties.

Congressmen Jones and lead co-sponsor Lynch are actively and publicly campaigning to up the pressure, both on their colleagues and the White House. On Feb. 10 Rep. Jones gave a three-minute address on the House floor, urging other members to contact the House Intelligence Committee, view the 28 pages, and sign on as sponsors. He noted that all the principals involved in writing the 9/11 Congressional Joint Inquiry Report are on record calling for the release of the 28 pages, and emphasized that Obama must keep his promise to the 9/11 families, to declassify this section of the report.

Then, on Feb. 12, Rep. Lynch went on the House floor, to read an op-ed he had had published in the *Boston Globe*, in which he called for the declassification. Citing the recent coverage of testimony by convicted 9/11 terrorist Zacarias Moussaoui on the issue, Lynch noted that “as a nation, we have not yet fully accounted for the sources of funding and logistical support that enabled al Qaeda to undertake these terrorist attacks.”

One of the major foci of the efforts of Jones and Lynch is to gain a sponsor for a parallel resolution in the U.S. Senate.

One prospect for doing so is Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.), who, during an address to Republicans in Iowa on Feb. 7, raised the issue of the 28 pages. “Do you know that the missing pages of the 9/11 report that are not allowed to be made public—I can tell you what I think is in them, because I haven’t read them. They’re still top secret. There are links of the attackers on 9/11 to high people in the Saudi Arabian government and wealthy people in Saudi Arabian society. They’ve been financing radical Islam for 30, 40, 50 years,” Sen. Paul told the crowd. “If they’re an ally, they need to be told ‘no more.’”

A Senate resolution is essential, in order to intensify the pressure on the President, and get results. Releasing the 28 pages should be the first order of business before any new Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Terrorists (AUMF), if terrorism is to be fought effectively.