

The Case for a Select Committee To Investigate the Benghazi Massacre

by William F. Wertz, Jr.

Sept. 21—As of Sept. 20, a total of 175 of the 233-member Republican caucus in the House of Representatives had co-sponsored resolution H. Res. 36, sponsored by Rep. Frank Wolf (R-Va.), calling for a Select Committee to investigate the Benghazi attack of Sept. 11, 2012. In the Senate, 24 of 46 Republicans have co-sponsored a similar resolution, S. Res. 225, sponsored by Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Tex.).

Not a single Democrat in either chamber has endorsed the call for a Select Committee, which would be tasked specifically to uncover the unanswered questions about the attack on the U.S. compound in Benghazi, Libya. Wolf's resolution seeks answers to policy, as well as technical, questions—including *why* Amb. Chris Stevens was in Benghazi (the embassy is in Tripoli), and what the function was of the CIA annex to the diplomatic mission. The latter issue points to the most important strategic question at issue: Was that annex being used to ship arms, illegally, to the jihadi rebels in Syria?

Stonewalling

Rather than bring the resolution to a vote in the House, the Republican leadership under Speaker John Boehner has instead insisted on carrying out the investigation through the standing committees. The Senate Democratic leadership has no intention of allowing an investigation, either by standing committees or a select committee.

On Sept. 19, Rep. Darrell Issa (R-Calif.), chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, announced that he had issued subpoenas for two State Department officials, John Martinec, the Regional Security Officer who was in Tripoli at the time of the attack, and Alec Henderson, the Regional Security Officer who was in Benghazi at the time of the attack.

Wolf welcomed these subpoenas, but asked, "Why has it taken more than a year for these first subpoenas to be issued? Will another year go by before the next subpoenas are issued?" He also called for subpoenas for public hearings to be issued immediately for all of the

other nearly 30 survivors of the Benghazi attack. "Among these additional subpoenas must be the CIA employees and contractors. In addition to the survivors, the committees also must immediately subpoena the key eyewitnesses from the State Department, Defense Department, CIA, and White House officials who were involved in monitoring the attack and making decisions about the response that night."

Unless such subpoenas are issued and a select committee is created which is committed to finding out the truth and making that truth public, the U.S. population and the world will never know if the CIA annex was illegally involved in gun-running from Libya to Syria. A corrupt agreement has been reached by the top Democratic leadership, which is committed to defending Obama, and the Republican leadership, which is also effectively defending Obama by diverting the entire investigation into an attack on former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. It is obvious that the policy toward Libya and Syria *was and is* decided by the White House.

Gun-Running to al-Qaeda Is the Issue

In an interview on the Hugh Hewitt radio program Aug. 6, Issa was asked if he were investigating whether weapons were being run out of the Benghazi CIA annex to Turkey, and then to Syrian rebels. Issa responded:

"It's not one of the items that we know, although I've seen it on the Internet too." When pressed, Issa added "There's a specific committee chairman, Mike Rogers, who deals with sources and methods and clandestine activities. Our investigation really is about two questions. When you deny an ambassador security he needs, are you denying it because of gross incompetence, in which case, nobody's been fired? You've got to ask why people aren't being held accountable. Or was this a political aim to make it look like the war on terror was over, that it had been won once Osama bin Laden had been killed? And we need to figure out which one of those two occurred, because whether there were, as you've heard, arms trafficking or not, would have

absolutely nothing to do with whether or not you provide the security necessary for a longtime loyal ambassador, who was a specialist in the Middle East.

“I visited him in multiple Middle Eastern countries over his tenure—he was asking for more security. He was denied it. And ultimately, that becomes the primary scandal in Benghazi, that we know it was wrong to say no to security, it was wrong not to send an effective rescue mission quickly, and it certainly was wrong to flat lie about the cause of this attack for more than a week in a Presidential [election] year.”

Thus, it is clear that Issa, who is leading the investigation run by the standing committees, in collusion with Boehner, has no intention of investigating the primary crime underlying Benghazi, on the part of the Obama Administration.

The Coverup

Nor is there any indication that Mike Rogers (R-Mich.), the chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, and a former special agent of the FBI in Chicago (1989-94), is interested in pursuing this issue.

On June 13, 2013, Breitbart news reported that

Rogers was confident that no gun-running, “in any shape or form,” took place in Libya. “I get to see all of that stuff. I have seen nothing that would allow me to conclude that the U.S. government was in any way, shape, or form involved in gun running in Libya. I looked at it all. If it’s there, I have not seen it. I think I would have found it,” he said. “I think there were some other things that were happening, and people got confused, but the United States government was not running guns” from the annex.

On Jan. 24, Boehner told talk radio host Laura Ingraham: “I’m somewhat familiar with the chatter about this and the fact that these arms were moving towards Turkey, but most of what I know about this came from a classified source and I really can’t elaborate on it.”

The duplicity of these statements is underscored by the availability of extensive *public* information pointing to such gun-running.¹

1. See “LaRouchePAC to the U.S. Congress: Obama Gun-Running to Syria Is Already Happening” (www.larouchepac.com/node/27204); “Foreign Policy Magazine Presents Further Documentation on Libyan Gunrunning to Syria” (www.larouchepac.com/node/27337); and “Benghazi Gunrunning to Syria: The Tale of Two British Libyan Agents” www.larouchepac.com/node/27709).

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