

# Congressmen Demand: Declassify 28 Pages

by Edward Spannaus

Dec. 7—Two members of the House of Representatives, Walter B. Jones (R-N.C.) and Stephen Lynch (D-Mass.), on Dec. 2 introduced House Resolution 428, calling upon President Obama to declassify the censored 28-page section of the report of the Joint Congressional Inquiry on the 9/11 attacks. By all accounts, the section in question, originally classified by George W. Bush, and continuing to be suppressed by Obama, deals with the role of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in providing financial and logistical support to the 9/11 hijackers.<sup>1</sup>

Sources report that there is a heightened interest in Congress in disclosing the suppressed 28 pages. Many Congressmen have gone to read the classified material, and the Jones-Lynch filing has triggered widespread press coverage and editorial calls for releasing the hidden evidence. Indeed, one reporter who has pursued the 9/11 story since 2001, called the Jones-Lynch resolution the most important break in the cover-up so far.

## The ‘Right To Know’

Upon filing the House resolution, Representative Jones issued the following statement to the press:

“Twelve years after the United States suffered a horrendous attack on our own soil, the families of the victims deserve to know all the facts concerning that tragic day. Furthermore, the information contained in the redacted pages is critical to our foreign policy moving forward and should thus be available to the American public. If the 9/11 hijackers had outside help—particularly from one or more foreign governments—the press and the public have a right to know what our govern-

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1. For the whole sordid story of how the evidence of Saudi sponsorship of the 9/11 attacks was suppressed, in the Congressional Joint Inquiry and the subsequent 9/11 Commission, and up to the present time, see “Bush and Obama Joined at the Hip in Shameless Coverup of Anglo-Saudi 9/11,” *EIR*, Aug. 16, 2013.

ment has or has not done to bring justice to all of the perpetrators.”

Representative Lynch also issued a press release, reporting that he recently reviewed the 28 pages, and stating why he believes they should be made public:

“Twelve years after the horrific September 11 attacks, unanswered questions still remain. These pages contain information that is vital to a full understanding of the events and circumstances surrounding this tragedy. The families of the victims and the American people deserve better; they deserve answers, they deserve a full accounting, and that has not happened yet. I am very pleased to be working with my friend and colleague Congressman Jones to ensure these pages see the light of day. I strongly encourage my colleagues to review this classified section of the Inquiry, and to work with me and Congressman Jones to get it declassified.”

## Evidence Is ‘Alarming’

Notable coverage of the Jones-Lynch filing included:

- A Dec. 3 *Boston Globe* story cited Eleanor Hill, formerly the staff director of the Congressional Joint Inquiry, calling the investigation’s findings “alarming,” and quoting her: “It was disturbing. . . . Even back then I personally felt they could have released more of it. Somebody needs to look at it again.”

- *The Hill*’s “Floor Action” blog reported on Dec. 3 that the Jones-Lynch filing is “the latest in a long series of attempts to declassify those pages,” including an effort by dozens of Senators in 2003. The blog notes that press reports have said that the 28 pages include information indicating that Saudi entities helped to fund the 9/11 attacks, and says that “Senators argued in 2003 that keeping these pages classified sends the signal that foreign entities who supported al Qaeda will go unpunished.” The blog also reported on the 9/11 families asking Obama to declassify the 28 pages last June, during which the families cited Obama’s own promise in 2009 to do so—which he still hasn’t fulfilled.

- The Ron Paul Institute on its website printed the text of H.Res. 428, and also the 2003 “Sense of the Senate Resolution” filed by Senators Byron Dorgan (D-N.D.) and Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.), seeking declassification of the 28 pages, and the floor debate on it. (This resolution had been preceded by a letter sent to President Bush from 46 Senators, which mentioned the Saudis and asked for the 28 pages to be made public.)



*The resolution filed by Reps. Stephen Lynch (left) and Walter Jones (right) increases the pressure on the White House to release the evidence of Saudi complicity in 9/11.*

Editorials in major newspapers in Lynch's district backed his initiative, in an indication of how this movement can catch on.

The *Boston Herald* published an editorial on Dec. 7 entitled "Open the 9/11 Books," which began: "Most of the public has likely forgotten that the Congressional report on the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in New York City and Washington contained a secret section. It's still secret. But kudos to U.S. Rep. Stephen Lynch (D-Mass.) and a colleague for their bipartisan effort to uncover these surely unnecessary secrets." The editorial quotes both the Lynch and Jones statements, and asks: "If some government—or part of a government—helped the attackers, did it know what they were up to? What was the help? Money? Advice? Instruction? Did the administration of then-President George W. Bush extract some favor in return for keeping quiet? Did the administration fear that open punishment would alienate an ally?"

The *Quincy Patriot-Ledger* ran an editorial on Dec. 7, "Leadership in Both Word and Deed," praising Lynch for showing "great leadership" on this question and contrasting him with a local Selectman (town councilman) who ducked out on an important issue. Regarding the 9/11 resolution, the editorial says: "Lynch didn't

come to this opinion lightly. He first read the 28 pages—with a State Department escort present, as is customary with such protected material—and then reflected on what's in the best interest of the country."

### **Graham Speaks Out Again**

In our last issue (*EIR*, Dec. 6, 2013), we reported on an interview with former Sen. Bob Graham (D-Fla.), who headed the Senate Intelligence Committee during the 9/11 investigations, conducted by The Real News Network. Were the role of Saudi Arabia in supporting the 9/11 terrorists to be fully aired, Graham declared, this would have enormous consequences for U.S. policy today in the Middle East, where the Saudis have been pressing for the United States to intervene militarily in Syria, and for a U.S. attack on Iran's nuclear program.

The final section of the Graham interview has since been posted, the theme of which is the culture of "not wanting to know" about the Saudi/al-Qaeda role, during the Bush-Cheney Administration. When the interviewer asked Graham what should be taken up in a reopened investigation, which Graham has called for, Graham said that a new probe should ask whether there was someone assisting the hijackers, and what was "the

extent of Saudi involvement.”

Asked whether there is any evidence linking the former Saudi Ambassador to the U.S., Prince Bandar, to the attacks, Graham responded by stating that there is some evidence that he can't talk about, but he then added: “But the fact that he [Bandar] had, and exercised as aggressively as he did, his special entrée at the White House, raises questions about why was he using that special entrée, for instance, to get people who were persons of interest to U.S. intelligence and law enforcement, out of the country before they could be interviewed.” The interviewer pressed Graham on the question of Bush's close relationship to Bandar, and whether there was a deliberate attempt “not to know.” Graham answered:

“[I]t was so pervasive that virtually all of the agencies of the federal government were moving in the same direction, from a Customs agent at an airport in Orlando who was chastised when he denied entry into the United States to a Saudi, to the President of the United States authorizing large numbers of Saudis to leave the country, possibly denying us forever important insights and information on what happened. You don't have everybody moving in the same direction, without there being

a head coach somewhere who was giving them instructions as to where he wants them to move.”

Which, of course, raises the question: Who was the “head coach”? *EIR* has come as close to answering that question as anybody, with our consistent exposure of the British-Saudi terror axis, which operated in part through funding provided by the proceeds of the 1985 British BAE oil-for-arms barter deal known as al-Yamamah (see, for example, “9/11 Secrets Partially Revealed,” *EIR*, Sept. 16, 2011).

The combination of the recent Graham interview, the Jones-Lynch resolution, and other major developments still to come, will dramatically increase the pressure on the Obama White House to finally release the explosive evidence on the Saudis and the 9/11 attacks.

In a March 2012 MSNBC interview, when Graham was discussing the lid that the Bush Administration had put on any information that could embarrass the Saudis, he added: “It is more inexplicable why the Obama Administration has been reticent to pursue the question of Saudi involvement. For both administrations, there was and continues to be an obligation to inform the American people through truthful information.”

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