

Will Saudi Role in 9/11 Finally Be Revealed?

by Nancy Spannaus

Jan. 5—Momentum is building toward breaking the Obama Administration's stonewalling on the release of the classified 28 pages of the Congressional Joint Inquiry on 9/11 report which deal with the financing of the mass murder of Americans in the 2001 terror attack. According to former U.S. Senator Bob Graham, who co-chaired the Inquiry, those pages "point a strong finger at Saudi Arabia."

Over the course of 2014, a core group of Congressmen, led by Reps. Walter B. Jones (R-N.C.), Steven Lynch (D-Mass.), and Thomas Massie (R-Ky.), carried out an intensifying mobilization for the release of the document. On Dec. 2, 2013, Jones and Lynch introduced H. Res. 428, which called on President Barack Obama to use his authority to declassify the 28 pages. By the end of the 113th Congress, the list of co-sponsors had grown to 21, with an equal number from the two political parties, and a growing number of Members of Congress were exercising their prerogative to view the pages—although they are required to do so under guard, not allowed take notes, and not to speak about what they've read.

Now, Reps. Jones and Lynch intend to reintroduce their resolution, starting with a press conference on Capitol Hill Jan. 7.

According to the press advisory issued from Jones's office, "Representatives Walter B. Jones (NC-3), Stephen Lynch (MA-8), and Senator Bob Graham (FL) will hold a bipartisan press conference on H. Res. 428, a resolution that calls on President Obama to declassify

the 28 pages of the Joint Inquiry into Intelligence Activities Before and After the Terrorist Attacks of September 2001 that were initially classified by President George W. Bush and have remained classified under President Barack Obama.

"Senator Graham was the chair of the Select Committee on Intelligence when the Joint Inquiry was written and has repeatedly called for the 28 pages to be declassified. H. Res. 428 states that declassification of the pages is necessary to provide the American public with the full truth surrounding the tragic events of September 11, 2001, particularly relating to the involvement of foreign governments. Congressmen Jones, Lynch, and Massie will introduce H. Res. 428 into the 114th Congress.

"Also attending the press conference will be representatives from 9/11 Families United for Justice Against Terrorism, and family members of victims killed in the 9/11 attacks."

Graham To Speak

This will not be the first high-powered press conference convened by Jones, Lynch, and Massie. On March 12 and Sept. 9 of 2014, they brought together representatives of organizations of the victims' families to join with them in demanding that the truth about the funding of the 9/11 attacks be made public—as President Obama had twice promised the family members he would do.

The most significant addition to this event will be the presence of Senator Graham, who has been playing

an increasingly prominent role in demanding release of the 28 pages. Graham has consistently made the link between the protection of the funders of the 9/11 terror attack, and the current terrorist offensive by the Islamic State, which is wreaking havoc and mass murder throughout Southeast Asia.

In an Oct. 9, 2014 interview with CBC's "Day 6" program, Graham laid the responsibility for the present conflict in Iraq and Syria directly at the doorstep of the Saudi Kingdom, and said that the brutal four-year war could have been avoided had the 28 pages from the Joint Inquiry been released earlier.

"The connection is a direct one. Not only has Saudi Arabia been promoting this extreme form of religion, but it also has been the principal financier, first of Al Qaeda, then of the various Al Qaeda franchises around the world—specifically the ones in Somalia and Yemen—and now the support of ISIS," said Graham.

"I believe that, had the role of Saudi Arabia in 9/11 been disclosed by the release of the 28 pages, and by the declassification of other information as to the Saudi role and support of the 9/11 hijackers, it would have made it much more difficult for Saudi Arabia to have continued that pattern of behavior, and I think [we] would have had a good chance of reining in the activity that today Canada, the United States, and other countries either are or are considering going to war with."

Publicity Buildup

The buildup for the Jan. 7 press conference indicates expanded interest in the fight for the disclosure of the 28 pages. A Jan. 3 spot on CNN-TV's Michael Smerconish show, and an article in the *New York Post* on Jan. 4, both advertised the upcoming Washington event, and stressed that President Obama is the target of the growing campaign.

The CNN report led with footage of Kaitlyn Strada, whose father was killed in the 9/11 attack on the World Trade Center, and whose mother, Terry Strada, is co-chair of 9/11 Families United to Bankrupt Terrorism. Kaitlyn, who was four years old at the time of the attack, is shown making the following appeal:

"Mr. President, please declassify the 28 pages that hold truths regarding who was behind my father's murder, for me and for the other 3,000 children who lost a parent on 9/11. As a father, wouldn't you want your children to not have to live with unanswered questions without ever knowing the truth?"

Smerconish then reports on how President George

W. Bush first classified the pages, that Obama has continued to do so, and describes the fight that has been waged by Graham and Terry Strada, both of whom he interviews. One focus of the discussion was the absence of the role of Congress in the fight for declassification.

Smerconish pointed out that in 2003, forty-four Senators signed a letter calling for the release of the pages—including Hillary Clinton, Joe Biden, and John Kerry—and asks what they are doing now. "They are silent on the issue," answered Strada. Asked why she thinks that is, she answered:

"They are protecting the Saudi regime over protecting the American people. And that is the travesty and that's what we're trying to bring to the attention of the American people that they can get involved in this. There is a Web site, 28pages.org; they can go to this Web site, they can read the letters that we have written to the president, read the letter written in 2003, and they can take action. They can call their representatives and they can get involved and they can ask them please read the pages and support this."

Hysterical Opposition

An indication of the hysterical opposition by the de facto Saudi lobby in Congress was the decision by House Intelligence Committee chair Mike Rogers (R-Mich.) not to allow Rep. Alan Grayson (D-Fla.) to view the 28 pages.

Grayson's request came before the Committee Dec. 1. The story broke into the Florida media, and then the D.C.-based *Hill* at the end of December. Speaking to the *Broward [Fla.] Bulldog*, Grayson said:

"Why was I denied? I have been instrumental in publicizing the [Edward] Snowden revelations regarding pervasive domestic spying by the government, and this is a petty means for the spying industrial complex to lash back.

"Chairman Rogers told the committee that I had discussed classified information on the floor. He left out the most important part—that I was discussing what was reported in the [*Guardian*] newspaper. He clearly misled the committee for an improper purpose: To deny a sitting member of Congress important classified information, necessary for me to do my job."

Grayson's revelation is likely to help spur the overthrow of the protection racket for the Saudis, who are a principal cog in the British Empire's terror apparatus. The Jan. 7 press conference will be another crucial step in that process.