

An Open Letter to the American People:

We are former national security officials who proudly served in a wide array of roles throughout the U.S. Government. We are writing about the Intelligence Community whistleblower's lawful disclosure, which was recently made public. While the identity of the whistleblower is not publicly known, we do know that he or she is an employee of the U.S. Government. As such, he or she has by law the right—and indeed the responsibility—to make known, through appropriate channels, indications of serious wrongdoing. That is precisely what this whistleblower did; and we applaud the whistleblower not only for living up to that responsibility but also for using precisely the channels made available by federal law for raising such concerns.

A responsible whistleblower makes all Americans safer by ensuring that serious wrongdoing can be investigated and addressed, thus advancing the cause of national security to which we have devoted our careers. What's more, being a responsible whistleblower means that, by law, one is protected from certain egregious forms of retaliation. Whatever one's view of the matters discussed in the whistleblower's complaint, all Americans should be united in demanding that all branches of our government and all outlets of our media protect this whistleblower and his or her identity. Simply put, he or she has done what our law demands; now he or she deserves our protection.

Signed,

Gina Abercrombie-Winstanley, Former Ambassador to Malta; Former Consul General to Saudi Arabia; Former Deputy Coordinator for Programs and Policy, Office of the Coordinator for Counterterrorism, Department of State

Javed Ali, Former Senior Director for Counterterrorism, National Security Council

Heidi August, Former Chief of Operations, Counter Terrorist Center, and Former Senior Station Chief, Central Intelligence Agency

Donald Ayer, Former Deputy Attorney General, Principal Deputy Solicitor General, and U.S. Attorney, Department of Justice

Rand Beers, Former Acting Secretary of Homeland Security; Former Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy Homeland Security Advisor, National Security Council

Colleen Bell, Former Ambassador to Hungary

William M. Bellamy, Former Senior Vice President, National Defense University; Former Ambassador to Kenya

Daniel Benjamin, Former Coordinator for Counterterrorism, Department of State

Jenna Ben-Yehuda, Former Senior Military Advisor, Department of State

Robert O. Boorstin, Former Senior Director for Communications, National Security Council; Former Senior Advisor to the Secretaries of State and Treasury

Aurelia E. Brazeal, Former Ambassador to the Federated States of Micronesia; Former Ambassador to Kenya; Former Ambassador to Ethiopia

J. Todd Breasseale, Former Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs, Department of Homeland Security

Michael Breen, Former U.S. Army Officer

John O. Brennan, Former Director, Central Intelligence Agency

James (Wally) Brewster, Former Ambassador to the Dominican Republic

Tess Bridgeman, Former Special Assistant to the President, Deputy Legal Adviser to the National Security Council, and Associate White House Counsel; Former Special Assistant to the Legal Adviser and Attorney Adviser, Department of State

Graham Brookie, Former Adviser for Strategic Communications and Adviser to the Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism, National Security Council

Rosa Brooks, Former Counselor to the Undersecretary of Defense for Policy, Department of Defense; Former Senior Advisor, Department of State

Prudence Bushnell, Former Ambassador to the Republic of Kenya; Former Ambassador to the Republic of Guatemala; Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs and Dean of Leadership and Management of the Foreign Service Institute, Department of State

Piper Anne Wind Campbell, Former Ambassador to Mongolia; Former Consul General to Iraq; Retired Senior Foreign Service Officer, Rank of Minister Counselor, Department of State

James Clapper, Former Director of National Intelligence; Former Director, Defense Intelligence Agency

Brent Colburn, Former Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs, Department of Defense; Former Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs, Department of Homeland Security

Elinor G. Constable, Former Ambassador to Kenya, Former Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, Department of State

Cindy Courville, Former Ambassador to the African Union; Former Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for African Affairs, National Security Council

J. Michael Daniel, Former Special Assistant to the President and Cybersecurity Coordinator, National Security Council

Miguel Diaz, Former Ambassador to the Holy See

Mieke Eoyang, Former Subcommittee Staff Director, House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence

Rena Epstein, Former Member of the Senior Intelligence Service, Central Intelligence Agency

Jon Finer, Former Chief of Staff and Director of Policy Planning, Department of State; Former Middle East Advisor to the Vice President

Michele A. Flournoy, Former Undersecretary of Defense for Policy, Department of Defense

Paul Frandano, Former Director, Environment and Societal Issues Center, and Founding Co-Chair, Red Cell, Central Intelligence Agency

Joshua A. Geltzer, Former Senior Director for Counterterrorism and Deputy Legal Advisor, National Security Council; Former Counsel to the Assistant Attorney General for National Security, Department of Justice

Beth George, Former Deputy General Counsel, Department of Defense; Former Counsel to the Assistant Attorney General for National Security, Department of Justice

Suzy George, Former Executive Secretary and Chief of Staff, National Security Council

Jennifer G. Gessler, Former Regional Department Manager, Central Intelligence Agency

Michael Gibson, Former Senior Executive and China Analyst, Central Intelligence Agency

Nina Hachigian, Former Ambassador to ASEAN; Former Staff, National Security Council

Chuck Hagel, Former Secretary of Defense; Former Co-Chair, President's Intelligence Advisory Board; Former Member, Senate Select Committee on Intelligence and Senate Foreign Relations Committee

James Harris, Former Chief, China Division, and Chief, Strategic Assessments Group, Central Intelligence Agency

Luke Hartig, Former Senior Director for Counterterrorism, National Security Council

Oona Hathaway, Former Special Counsel to the General Counsel, Department of Defense

Patricia M. Hawkins, Former Ambassador to the Togolese Republic

Michael V. Hayden, Former Director, Central Intelligence Agency; Former Director, National Security Agency; Former Principal Deputy Director of National Intelligence

Brett Holmgren, Former Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Intelligence Programs, National Security Council

Vicki J. Huddleston, Former Ambassador to Mali; Former Ambassador to Madagascar; Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for African Affairs, Department of Defense

John Hughes, Former Deputy Director, Office of Sanctions Policy and Implementation, Department of State

Patrick M. Hughes, Former Director, Defense Intelligence Agency; Former Assistant Secretary for Information and Analysis, Department of Homeland Security

Roberta S. Jacobson, Former Ambassador to Mexico; Former Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs, Department of State

Deborah K. Jones, Former Ambassador to Kuwait; Former Ambassador to Libya

Nate Jones, Former Director for Counterterrorism, National Security Council

Colin Kahl, Former Deputy Assistant to the President and National Security Advisor to the Vice President; Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for the Middle East, Department of Defense

Andrea Kendall-Taylor, Former Deputy National Intelligence Officer for Russia and Eurasia, National Intelligence Council; Former Analyst, Central Intelligence Agency

Laura Kennedy, Former Ambassador to the Conference on Disarmament; Former Ambassador to Turkmenistan

Frank Kendall, Former Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition Technology and Logistics, Department of Defense

Harold Hongju Koh, Former Legal Adviser and Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy Human Rights and Labor, Department of State

Lisa Kubiske, Former Ambassador to Honduras; Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for International Finance and Development, Department of State

Patricia H. Kushlis, Former Foreign Service Officer, U.S. Information Agency

Anne Lauer, Former Manager and Analyst, Central Intelligence Agency

Jonathan L. Lee, Former Deputy Chief of Staff, Department of Homeland Security; Former Director for Human Rights and National Security Issues, National Security Council

J. William Leonard, Former Director, Information Security Oversight Office; Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Security and Information Operations, Department of Defense

Andrew Liepman, Former Deputy Director, National Counterterrorism Center

George Little, Former Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs and Pentagon Press Secretary, Department of Defense; Former Director of Public Affairs and Chief of Media Relations, Central Intelligence Agency

Carmen Lomellin, Former Ambassador to the Organization of American States

Kelly Magsamen, Former Principal Deputy Secretary of Defense for Asian and Pacific Security Affairs, Department of Defense; Former Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Strategic Planning, National Security Council

Mary B. McCord, Former Acting Assistant Attorney General for National Security and Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General for National Security, Department of Justice

Carmen Medina, Former Deputy Director of Intelligence, Central Intelligence Agency

Karen J. Monaghan, Former Senior Intelligence Service Officer, Central Intelligence Agency; Former Department Chief in Europe, Eurasia Mission Center

Molly Montgomery, Former Special Advisor to the Vice President for Europe and Eurasia; Former Foreign Service Officer, Department of State

Michael Morell, Former Acting and Deputy Director and 33-Year Career Intelligence Officer, Central Intelligence Agency

Katrina Mulligan, Former Intelligence Officer, Office of the Director of National Intelligence; Former Director for Disclosures Response, National Security Council; Former Attorney Advisor in the National Security Division, Department of Justice

Scott Nathan, Former Special Representative for Commercial and Business Affairs, Department of State; Former Associate Director for General Government Programs, Office of Management and Budget

James C. O'Brien, Former Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs, Special Presidential Envoy for the Balkans, and Adviser to the Secretary of State, Department of State

Matthew G. Olsen, Former Director, National Counterterrorism Center; Former General Counsel, National Security Agency

Maria Otero, Former Undersecretary of State for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights, Department of State

Christopher Painter, Former Senior Director for Cyber Policy, National Security Council; Former Coordinator for Cyber Issues, Department of State

Jung Pak, Former Deputy National Intelligence Officer for Korea, National Intelligence Council

Thomas R. Parker, Former Assistant Special Agent in Charge, Los Angeles Field Office, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Eric Pelofsky, Former Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for North Africa and Yemen, National Security Council

June Carter Perry, Former Ambassador to Lesotho; Former Ambassador to Sierra Leone

Larry Pfeiffer, Former Chief of Staff, Central Intelligence Agency

Stephen Pomper, Former Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights, National Security Council

Jeffrey Prescott, Former Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Iran, Iraq, Syria and the Gulf States, National Security Council; Former Deputy National Security Advisor to the Vice President

Ned Price, Former Spokesperson and Senior, Director, National Security Council; Former Senior Analyst, Central Intelligence Agency

Asha Rangappa, Former Special Agent, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Nicholas Rasmussen, Former Director, National Counterterrorism Center; Former Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Counterterrorism, National Security Council

Elizabeth Raspolic, Former Ambassador to Gabon

Susan E. Rice, Former National Security Advisor; Former Ambassador to the United Nations

Daniel J. Rosenthal, Former Director for Counterterrorism, National Security Council; Former Senior Counsel to the Assistant Attorney General for National Security, Department of Justice

Paul Rosenzweig, Former Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy, Department of Homeland Security

Nick Shapiro, Former Deputy Chief of Staff and Senior Advisor to the Director, Central Intelligence Agency

Wendy R. Sherman, Former Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs, Former Acting Deputy Secretary of State, Former Counselor of the Department of State, and Former Assistant Secretary of State for Legislative Affairs, Department of State

Steven Simon, Former Senior Director for the Middle East and North Africa and Senior Director for Transnational Threats, National Security Council

Dana Shell Smith, Former Ambassador to Qatar; Former Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Public Affairs, Department of State

Ali Soufan, Former Supervisory Special Agent, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Suzanne Spaulding, Former Under Secretary for the National Protection and Programs Directorate, Department of Homeland Security; Former Assistant General Counsel, Central Intelligence Agency; Former Minority Staff Director, House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence; Former General Counsel, Senate Select Committee on Intelligence

Margaret A. Stromecki, Former Chief of Analysis, Iran Mission Center, Central Intelligence Agency

Francis X. Taylor, Former Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis, Department of Homeland Security

Harry K. Thomas, Jr., Former Ambassador to Bangladesh; Former Ambassador to the Philippines; Former Ambassador to Zimbabwe

Linda Thomas-Greenfield, Former Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs and Director General of the Foreign Service, Department of State

Doug Wilson, Former Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs, Department of Defense

Ted Wittenstein, Former Executive Assistant to the Director of National Intelligence and Deputy Secretary of State

Carl Woog, Former Director for Strategic Communications, National Security Council; Former Senior Advisor to the Secretary of Defense, Department of Defense

Uzra Zeya, Former Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, Department of State

Jane B. Zimmerman, Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, Department of State