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U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE  
ON INTELLIGENCE

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MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

May 13, 2015

The Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

We write to you today regarding the five former Guantanamo detainees currently in Qatar under the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that is scheduled to expire on June 1, 2015.

Over the past year, the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and other congressional committees conducted numerous briefings and hearings regarding Khairrullah Khairkhwa, Nurullah Noori, Mullah Mohammad Fazl, Abdul Haq Wasiq, and Mohammad Nabl Omarl. Committee Members and staff traveled to Qatar on numerous occasions and followed reports about these individuals closely.

Despite the current restrictions of the MOU, it is clear to the Committee that the five former detainees have participated in activities that threaten U.S. and coalition personnel and are counter to U.S. national security interests—not unlike their activities before they were detained on the battlefield. Based on the Committee's review, the U.S. government should have low confidence in its ability to understand all of the former detainees' activities in Qatar.

As you know well, these individuals previously led, planned, and participated in attacks that killed American and coalition personnel. They had operational ties to terrorist organizations, including to al-Qa'ida. Some are wanted by the United Nations for war crimes. If, as scheduled, Qatar permits these five former detainees to possess passports and travel to Afghanistan or Pakistan when the MOU expires on June 1, they will be at liberty to play an even more direct role in attacks against the men and women of our military. The United States should not allow these dangerous individuals the freedom to plot and conspire against our troops or those of our allies.

Based on these individuals' previous nefarious activities and their intent and capability to threaten U.S. and coalition personnel, we urge you to work with the Qataris to ensure they cannot threaten the United States or its allies. At the very least, we urge you to make a personal request to the Emir of Qatar to maintain travel restrictions on the former detainees and to monitor their activities indefinitely.

Sincerely,

Darin Nemes

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