



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

September 30, 2016

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This responds to your letter to the Attorney General dated January 15, 2016, regarding Ali Awni al Harzi. We apologize for our delay in responding to your letter.

As you know, on September 30, 2015, the FBI provided an extensive and detailed classified briefing to your staff to address questions on this topic. We appreciated the opportunity to discuss the matter with you in a classified setting and thank you again for your continued support of the FBI, the Department of Justice (the Department), and our mission.

As we have discussed with your staff, many of the questions in your letter are inconsistent with the information provided at the briefing. As such, and consistent with the Department's general practices, we are not in a position to comment beyond the briefing on specific factual questions, internal Department decision-making deliberations, law enforcement sensitive communications, the conduct of other agencies, or interactions with foreign governments; however, we can assure you that the Department considered and pursued appropriate options based on the facts and circumstances of this matter, as discussed at the briefing.

We hope this information is helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact this office if we may provide additional assistance regarding this or any other matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "P. Kadzik".

Peter J. Kadzik
Assistant Attorney General

cc: The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Ranking Member