



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

March 8, 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 December 31, 2015, regarding allegations about Linda Howard, a former Department of State employee. We provide the following information in response to the questions you posed in your letter.

In June 2009, the Department of Justice (the Department) received a referral from the State Department related to alleged sexual assaults that occurred at the residence of Linda Howard, the former State Department employee, and her husband, Russell Howard.

In March 2011, the Department notified the State Department that it would be unable to criminally prosecute Mr. or Mrs. Howard on forced labor and sexual assault charges after identifying legal and evidentiary issues that precluded proof of the elements of those particular offenses beyond a reasonable doubt. However, the Department continued to evaluate available evidence for other possible charges.

The Department continued to revisit possible criminal charges in light of new developments including the identification of additional potential witnesses, subsequent acts and statements by the subjects, and events in the civil action. After receiving confirmation in 2014 that Mr. Howard had died in Australia, the Department continued to investigate and evaluate the available evidence to determine whether it was sufficient to support any criminal charges applicable to Mrs. Howard. After further review, the Department's internal file in this matter was closed on February 12, 2016.

If your staff would like additional information on this matter, please have them contact the Office of Legislative Affairs.

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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", written over a horizontal line.

Peter J. Kadzik
Assistant Attorney General

cc: The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Ranking Member