



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

December 24, 2015

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 November 25, 2015, regarding the allegations against former State Department employee Linda Howard.

We assure you that the Department of Justice (the Department) is committed to vigorously enforcing the Trafficking Victims Protection Act and seeking justice on behalf of human trafficking victims, including pursuing criminal investigations as appropriate to determine whether the elements of federal criminal violations can be proven beyond a reasonable doubt. In this particular matter, the Department of State referred the allegations regarding Linda Howard to the Department in 2009, and we subsequently opened a criminal investigation. The investigation is currently open and pending. Due to the pending status of the investigation, the Department is not in a position to provide further comment on the matter at this time.

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 black ink, appearing to read "PKZ", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Peter J. Kadzik
Assistant Attorney General

cc: The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
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The Honorable Steve A. Linick
Inspector General
U.S. Department of State

The Honorable Michael E. Horowitz
Inspector General
U.S. Department of Justice