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# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives SELECT COMMITTEE ON BENGHAZI

(202) 226-7100

<http://benghazi.house.gov>

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December 29, 2014

Denis McDonough  
Chief of Staff  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. McDonough:

Seven months ago, the U.S. House of Representatives established the Select Committee on the Events Surrounding the 2012 Terrorist Attack in Benghazi (hereinafter "Committee") to investigate the attacks on the United States facilities in Benghazi, Libya on September 11-12, 2012 (hereinafter the "Attacks").<sup>1</sup> The Committee is empowered to investigate not only the circumstances leading up to and during the Attacks, but also events that occurred in their aftermath, and I intend to conduct a full, fair and impartial investigation. This Committee has pledged an investigation worthy of the memory of those who died in Benghazi and worthy of the trust of our fellow citizens. I know you join the Committee in the belief all Americans deserve to know the complete set of the facts surrounding what happened before, during and after the Attacks in Benghazi.

The Committee's mandate is to determine and review the policies, decisions, and activities that contributed to, or were made or taken in response to, the Benghazi attacks. As such, the Committee's investigation requires a review of executive branch materials regarding policies and decisions related to the American presence in Libya and in Benghazi, specifically, the security of our facilities there, and the government's response to the Attacks. The Committee's mandate also includes making recommendations that will lead to improved security for our fellow Americans working in dangerous posts overseas.

To this end, we first must learn about the Attacks so that we can learn from the Attacks. Accordingly, the Committee requests the White House, to include the Executive Office of the President, provide the following items, which the Committee has determined are relevant to its work:

1. For the period of January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2012, any and all documents and communications referring or relating to United States policy regarding Libya and the establishment, maintenance, or continuation of a United States presence in Libya, to or from any member of the White House staff.

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<sup>1</sup> Providing for the Establishment of the Select Committee on the Events Surrounding the 2012 Terrorist Attack In Benghazi, H. Res. 567, 113th Cong. (2014).

2. For the period of September 11, 2012 through December 31, 2012, any and all documents and communications referring or relating to the Attacks, any response to the Attacks, or any statement about the Attacks to or from any member of the White House staff.
3. For the time period of September 11-20, 2012, all documents, to include but not be limited to calendars, schedules, and movement logs, regarding meetings or events attended by the President, which shall include the identity of individuals in attendance at any meetings or events.
4. For the time period of September 11-20, 2012, all documents, to include but not be limited to the date, time, the duration of communication but excluding the content of such communications, and the identities of any persons who participated in any type of communication with the President regarding Libya and/or the Attacks, to include but not be limited to telephone, cellular, or satellite calls, video teleconference communications, electronic mail communications, and text messaging communications.
5. For the period of September 11, 2012 through December 31, 2012, any and all documents that reflect the date, time, duration of communication, content of communication, and identity of any person who participated in any type of communication with any White House Staff where the topic of discussion was, in whole or in part, any matter relating to the Attacks, to include but not be limited to telephone calls, video teleconference communications, electronic mail communications, and text messaging communications. This request allows for the exclusion of any portion of a communication that that was directed to the President and which contains advice to the President regarding any matter relating to the Attacks.
6. All documents, including printed logs, call logs, swipe card logs, official photographs, and video footage, reflecting the identity of any person who communicated with and/or was present in the White House Situation Room on September 11-12, 2012, to include the identity of members of the White House Situation Room's rotating staff sometimes referred to as "Watch Teams" that were on duty to include the identity of any duty officers, communications specialists, intelligence analysts, and military personnel.
7. All documents including, but not limited to, logs, calendars, schedules, notes, and official or unofficial White House photographs, relating to the physical location of the President within the White House on the evening of September 11, 2012.

8. All documents and communications that relate to the statement made by the President in the Rose Garden on the morning of September 12, 2012, regarding the Attacks, including all drafts, notes, and revisions relating thereto, including associated metadata showing the author of any such document and the identity of any recipient or person who reviewed or revised the document.
9. For the period of September 11, 2012 through December 31, 2012, any and all documents and communications that relate to crafting or formulating the Administration's response to or explanation of the Attacks, including memorandums, drafts, notes, and revisions relating thereto, including associated metadata showing the author of any such document and the identity of any recipient or person who reviewed or revised the document, to include the unclassified briefing points prepared for Members of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence regarding the Attack and/or other information prepared for Ambassador Susan Rice during her September 15-16, 2012 television appearances.
10. All documents and communications to or from White House staff regarding protests at U.S. overseas facilities between September 11-20, 2012.
11. For the period of September 11, 2012 through December 31, 2012, all documents or communications to or from White House staff referring or relating to an online video or film called *Innocence of Muslims*.
12. All documents and communications that relate to the "Readout of the President's Meeting with Senior Administration Officials on Our Preparedness and Security Posture on the Eleventh Anniversary of September 11th," to include contemporaneous notes taken at the meeting.

Please produce these documents as soon as possible, but no later than 5:00 p.m. on January 23, 2015. An attachment to this letter provides additional information about responding to this request. When producing documents to the Committee, please deliver production sets to the Majority Staff in Room 1036 of the Longworth House Office Building, and the Minority Staff in Room B241 of the Longworth House Office Building. The production of documents should be in electronic format. The Committee has the cleared personnel and facilities to accept and store all classified information, including Top Secret/SCI information. Please contact the Committee's Chief Investigative Counsel, Dana Chipman, at (202) 226-7100 by January 13, 2015, to begin making arrangements for the production of the documents requested.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Trey Gowdy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Trey Gowdy  
Chairman

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings, Ranking Member