



One Hundred Twelfth Congress
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20515

October 8, 2012

The Honorable James R. Clapper
Director
Office of the Director of National Intelligence
Washington, D.C. 20511

The Honorable David H. Petraeus
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Generals Clapper and Petraeus:

I write regarding the possible disclosure of sensitive intelligence, and request you initiate an investigation into whether any intelligence was inappropriately provided to members of the media pertaining to the terrorist attacks on the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi, Libya.

On October 18, 2012, Dr. Leslie Gelb wrote on *The Daily Beast* website that United States Ambassador to the United Nations Susan E. Rice based her September 16, 2012 public remarks about the terrorist attacks on the U.S. Consulate and Annex in Benghazi on the intelligence given to the President and to her. In his defense of possible inaccuracies in Ambassador Rice's statements about the Benghazi attack, Dr. Gelb not only blames the U.S. Intelligence Community, he writes that he, too, received an intelligence briefing and even infers that he received the same briefing as President Obama and Ambassador Rice: "Her mistake was taking the initial intelligence at face value. The White House briefers made the same error, and so did I. I too repeated in an op-ed on *The Daily Beast* what the intelligence briefers told me."¹

¹ See Leslie H. Gelb, "Person of Interest: United States U.N. Ambassador Susan Rice," *The Daily Beast*, October 8, 2012, accessed at <http://www.thedailybeast.com/newsweek/2012/10/07/person-of-interest-united-states-un-ambassador-susan-rice.html>.

While I recognize that members of the Executive Branch provide background briefings to members of the media, I do not recall any occasion where a journalist received an intelligence briefing equivalent to that received by the President or the U.S. Ambassador to the U.N., especially in the aftermath of a terrorist attack against U.S. personnel.

Therefore, to ensure the protection of classified information against unlawful disclosure, I request answers to the following questions no later than October 19, 2012:

1. Does Dr. Gelb maintain a security clearance? If so, what classification level?
2. Did any employee or contracted employee of the Obama Administration and/or the U.S. Intelligence Community provide Dr. Gelb an intelligence briefing? If so, please provide the names of the individuals who provided the briefing, the date and times of the briefing, and copies of any information provided in the briefing.
3. Did Dr. Gelb receive access to intelligence also contained in the Presidential Daily Brief?
4. Did Dr. Gelb receive finished intelligence products, or signals, imagery or human intelligence reports, of equal or lesser classification level than those provided to Ambassador Rice?
5. If disclosures of classified information to Dr. Gelb were authorized, was his publication of such intelligence also authorized? If the disclosures were unauthorized, what penalties are in place to protect against such disclosures in the future?
6. In the event Dr. Gelb did not receive any such intelligence briefing, do any penalties or administrative actions exist for falsely claiming to have received an intelligence briefing?
7. Do other members of the media receive the intelligence briefings Dr. Gelb claims to have received? If so, who are they, do they hold security clearances, and at what level?

As you know, for nearly four years, I have written to President Obama, yourselves, and other Intelligence Community leaders to express my deep concern about the numerous leaks coming from the Obama Administration. Illegal disclosures of classified information have repeatedly jeopardized our clandestine and law enforcement officials, special operators, and intelligence sources and methods.

These leaks include the whereabouts of Times Square bomber Faisal Shahzad, details of the intelligence and raid that found and killed Osama bin Laden, the existence of a human source penetration of al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, possible U.S. involvement in cyber attacks against Iran's nuclear arms program, specifics regarding drone campaigns, and (most recently) reported ongoing counterterrorism efforts and even future possible operations in North Africa.

If the Obama Administration and/or the Intelligence Community now provide intelligence briefings (as opposed to background briefings) to journalists—as claimed by Dr.

Gelb—I urge you to take immediate corrective action to protect the public trust in your agencies, vital intelligence, and lives.

If you have any questions regarding this issue, please contact me. Thank you for your time and personal attention to this important matter of national security.

Sincerely,



PETER T. KING
Chairman