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FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE  
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CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

July 12, 2012

Michele Bachmann  
Member of Congress

Trent Franks  
Member of Congress

Louie Gohmert  
Member of Congress

Thomas Rooney  
Member of Congress

Lynn Westmoreland  
Member of Congress

Dear Colleagues:

I write to gather more information regarding the allegations you made in letters dated June 13, 2012 to the Inspectors General of the Departments of State, Justice, and Homeland Security, and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, stating that individuals and organizations allegedly associated with the Muslim Brotherhood have nefariously influenced the U.S. government.

In your letters, you allege that:

- “Brotherhood operatives” within the U.S. government may have directly influenced the U.S. intelligence community’s assessment of the Muslim Brotherhood, as presented by Director of National Intelligence James Clapper in testimony before the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence on February 10, 2011;
- The mother, brother and deceased father of Huma Abedin, Deputy Chief of Staff to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, are connected to the Muslim Brotherhood, and that she, too, by extension, may be working on the organization’s behalf;
- The Organization of Islamic Cooperation, an international organization of 57 countries to which President George W. Bush created a special envoy position, is “determined to impose shariah worldwide” and undermine the U.S. Constitution;
- The Islamic Society of North America (ISNA), an umbrella organization of American Muslim groups, is “the largest Muslim Brotherhood front in the United States,” and

- The Muslim Public Affairs Council (MPAC) and Muslim Advocates, two civil rights organizations, “exercise influence in ways that align with Muslim Brotherhood agendas.”

As evidence for these allegations, you reference MuslimBrotherhoodinAmerica.com, a Web site created by Frank Gaffney of the Center for Security Policy (CSP).

Mr. Gaffney has a long history of making unsubstantiated anti-Muslim allegations, including:

- Accusing then-ISAF Commander General David Petraeus of “submission” to Islamic law because he condemned Florida pastor Terry Jones’ burning of a Quran;
- Accusing presidential candidate Herman Cain after meeting with ISNA of meeting with “the largest Muslim Brotherhood front in the United States” (language that appears verbatim in your letters);
- Accusing New Jersey Governor Chris Christie of “corruption” and “treason” for appointing a Muslim lawyer to be a judge;
- Accusing anti-tax advocate Grover Norquist of “enabling and empowering Muslim Brotherhood influence operations against our movement and our country”;
- Accusing former Bush Administration official Suhail Khan of conducting a “Muslim Brotherhood Influence Operation” against the American Conservative Union (ACU), the host of the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC), and
- Accusing Republican Virginia House of Delegates member David Ramadan of waging “stealth jihad” by seeking elected office.

Mr. Gaffney’s views have been widely discredited, including by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and conservative organizations. The FBI said his research made “unsubstantiated assertions” and relied on “outdated information.” After the ACU board conducted a full investigation of Mr. Gaffney’s accusations against Grover Norquist and Suhail Khan, the board found Mr. Gaffney’s accusations “reprehensible,” “baseless” and “false and unfounded.” The ACU even barred Mr. Gaffney’s participation from CPAC in 2011.

Despite Mr. Gaffney’s record of unsubstantiated allegations, you appear to have based your letters to the Inspectors General on his views.

I request that you provide my office a full accounting of the sources you used to make the serious allegations against the individuals and organizations in your letters. If there is not credible, substantial evidence for your allegations, I sincerely hope that you will publically clear their names.

Sincerely,



Keith Ellison  
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable I. Charles McCullough III, Inspector General, Office of the  
Director of National Intelligence

Ambassador Harold W. Geisel, Deputy Inspector General, U.S. Department of  
State

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

Mr. Charles K. Edwards, Acting Inspector General, U.S. Department of  
Homeland Security