

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:  
COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND  
TRANSPORTATION  
FOREIGN RELATIONS  
SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE  
SMALL BUSINESS AND  
ENTREPRENEURSHIP

January 30, 2015

The Honorable John Kerry  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20220

Dear Secretary Kerry,

As you are aware, recent media reports have indicated that one of the five Taliban detainees released from Guantanamo Bay in return for Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl in May 2014 has attempted to return to militant activity from his current location in Qatar. This is deeply disturbing because the Administration has released prisoners who are, and continue to be a direct threat to our national security. I am also concerned that the protocols that were established to prevent the former Guantanamo Bay detainees from re-engaging in terrorist-related activities were not followed or that those protocols were not sufficient enough to begin with.

This leads me to question what measures have been put into place for an additional group of six Guantanamo Bay detainees who were transferred to Uruguay in December of last year.

President Jose Mujica of Uruguay stated in December that the U.S. Department of State has sent him a letter indicating that the six men in question, one Palestinian, one Tunisian and four Syrians, who had been detained in Afghanistan and Pakistan - were not "involved in conducting or facilitating terrorist activities against the United States or its partners or its allies."

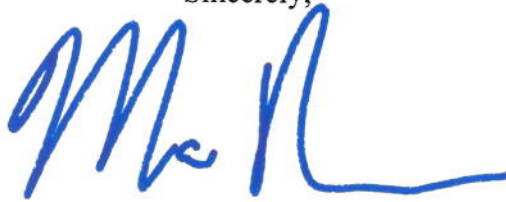
I find it difficult to believe that we would hold these six men as prisoners for over a decade if they did not pose a direct threat to the United States.

In light of recent events, it is extremely important that members of Congress clearly understand the nature of the agreements that we have in place with foreign governments and specifically Uruguay as it relates to the transfer of prisoners from Guantanamo Bay.

Please provide the written agreement between the U.S. Department of State and the government of Uruguay that identifies the persons to be transferred, their identified threat level, and what security measures that have been put into place to prevent their engaging in terrorism related activities. Also provide what procedures have been put into place to re-evaluate the security concerns as they relate to the Taliban detainees located in Qatar, and how this will affect other detainees that have been previously released to other countries.

Again, I appreciate your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'MR', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Marco Rubio  
United States Senator