

RELEASE IN PART
B1,B5,B7(E),1.4(D),B6

From: Mills, Cheryl D <MillsCD@state.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2011 8:49 PM
To: H
Subject: FW: Update on Jim Risen

Classified by DAS, A/GIS, DoS on 02/19/2016 ~ Class: SECRET ~ Reason: 1.4(D) ~ Declassify on: 04/11/2036

FYI

From: Feldman, Daniel F
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2011 8:20 PM
To: Mills, Cheryl D
Cc: Klevorick, Caitlin B
Subject: FW: Update on Jim Risen

CDM [redacted]

[redacted] I told her I'd quickly update you this evening on the current state of play, and she'll supplement with anything else.

- USAID Comms just spoke with the NYT, per the read-out below. They'll most likely publish the article Thurs morning (so available tmw night on line), though may extend it beyond that, depending on the potential security concerns on the ground.
- In the past 24 hours, based on the information received, USAID instructed the contractor, Louis Berger, to terminate the relationship with the person of interest. A decision on the main subcontractor (ISS) has not yet been made, and likely won't be before the publication of the article, though we're seeking to expedite the decision.
- [redacted] State and USAID, are continuing to work through joint guidance which highlights strides made in joint vetting processes. OSD plans to send over a contracting fact sheet tomorrow which "gives greater fidelity to the vetting process" and recommended TPs.
- FBI had not yet been contacted, but will be now. [redacted]
- USAID is developing a timeline of events surrounding the story, including the fact that their IG was notified in 2009 about it, but did not issue a report.
- DOD has conveyed to ISAF concerns about possibility for security issues given the termination of the individual, and we have also alerted Emb Kabul to this concern. We're also seeking to coordinate any potential ramifications of the contract with GIRoA, the PRT/FOB, civilians, etc.
- Given the other very public and potentially related events this week (Raj's Senate hearings, Alex's anti-corruption thinktank speech, S's addresses in Berlin and Brussels, continuing Hill interest in this narrative), we're doing anything possible to shape Hill and media engagement. TPs on vetting procedures, fact sheets, and draft Q&As are being prepared, and we'll circulate tomorrow.
- [redacted] and will keep you apprised.

Dan

From: Anderson, Lars (LPA/AA) [mailto:laanderson@usaid.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2011 6:05 PM
To: [redacted] Ruzica, Nadja (OAPA/TS); Thier, Alex (OAPA/OD); Schimpp, Michele J (OAPA/OD); Pryor, Jeanne Marie (OAPA/AF); Ray, Diane (OAPA/AF); Carey, James (OAPA/SPME); Feldman, Daniel F; Ruggiero, Frank J; [redacted]
Cc: Byers, Stan; [redacted] Bommer, Ashley F; Schwemlein, James C; Whelan, Moira (LPA/AA); Haq, Nayyera; Hall, Caitlin G; George, Brian J; Darcy, Shannon M; Klevorick, Caitlin B; Simon, Jessica L; Singh, Vikram J; Benjamin_J._Rhodes [redacted] Bommer, Ashley F; Shawn_S._Turner [redacted]

[redacted] caitlin_m_hayden [redacted] Chowdhry, Aysha
(OAPA/OD); Travis, Stephen(M/CIO/O&M); Raines, Jacqueline (OAPA/OD); Eric_M._Lebson [redacted] Carland,
Raphael

B6

Subject: Update on Jim Risen

- Spoke with Jim Risen.
- Spoke off-the-record.
- Began the conversation emphasizing the need to delay the story for concerns of lives and safety. Because we were off-the-record, he agreed he would not use the information that we were providing until we talked again. At the end of the conversation, he would touch base with his colleague in Kabul and his editors here about the timing of the story, but assured us that he would give us notification of when it would happen.
- After this, began the conversation highlighting the USG's vetting process and went into a bit of detail about A3 and vetting non-U.S. subcontractors and individuals.
- Based on this process, USAID made the recommendation to its contractor, Louis Berger, to inform the individual in question that he is no longer eligible to receive U.S. funds.
- He asked about HKCC and if it was the same process that was used to determine its standing and we said yes.
- He asked us if derogatory information meant ties to the Haqqani network. We committed to following up.
- In terms of details of the story, he indicated that it was common knowledge at the site that the Taliban was being paid off.
- That the focus of the story throughout Afghanistan, U.S. government funds have been a major source for the Taliban. He was clear that USAID only played one part of the story.
- He also raised another dynamic between USAID and another Agency which we are addressing with that other government body directly.
- Risen may call me tonight for further details and I will update the group.