

## **The Freedom of Information Act (5 USC 552)**

### **FOIA Exemptions**

- (b)(1) Withholding specifically authorized under an Executive Order in the interest of national defense or foreign policy, and properly classified. E.O. 12958, as amended, includes the following classification categories:
- 1.4(a) Military plans, systems, or operations
  - 1.4(b) Foreign government information
  - 1.4(c) Intelligence activities, sources or methods, or cryptology
  - 1.4(d) Foreign relations or foreign activities of the US, including confidential sources
  - 1.4(e) Scientific, technological, or economic matters relating to national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
  - 1.4(f) U.S. Government programs for safeguarding nuclear materials or facilities
  - 1.4(g) Vulnerabilities or capabilities of systems, installations, infrastructures, projects, plans, or protection services relating to US national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
  - 1.4(h) Information on weapons of mass destruction
- (b)(2) Related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency
- (b)(3) Specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than 5 USC 552), for example:
- |        |   |
|--------|---|
| ARMEX  | Arms Export Control Act, 22 USC 2778(e)                   |
| CIA    | Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949, 50 USC 403(g)    |
| EXPORT | Export Administration Act of 1979, 50 App. USC 2411(c)(1) |
| FSA    | Foreign Service Act of 1980, 22 USC 4003 & 4004           |
| INA    | Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 USC 1202(f)            |
| IRAN   | Iran Claims Settlement Act, Sec 505, 50 USC 1701, note    |
- (b)(4) Privileged/confidential trade secrets, commercial or financial information from a person
- (b)(5) Interagency or intra-agency communications forming part of the deliberative process, attorney-client privilege, or attorney work product
- (b)(6) Information that would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy
- (b)(7) Information compiled for law enforcement purposes that would:
- (A) interfere with enforcement proceedings
  - (B) deprive a person of a fair trial
  - (C) constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy
  - (D) disclose confidential sources
  - (E) disclose investigation techniques
  - (F) endanger life or physical safety of an individual
- (b)(8) Prepared by or for a government agency regulating or supervising financial institutions
- (b)(9) Geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells

### **Other Grounds for Withholding**

- NR Material not responsive to a FOIA request, excised with the agreement of the requester

RELEASE IN FULL

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Ar

## Bullard, Avery D

**From:** SAC News <info@sacouncil.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 28, 2013 2:42 PM  
**To:** NEA-Syria-DL  
**Subject:** UNSC Votes to Eliminate Syria's Chemical Weap  
Film



# SAC NEWS

[www.sacouncil.com](http://www.sacouncil.com)

## Emergency Red List of Syrian Antiquities at Launched in New York

On September 25, SAC's Mohammed Ghanem attended the launching of the 'Emergency Red List of Syrian Antiquities' hosted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and International Council of Museums (ICOM) at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City.

The Syrian Red List contains objects covering the most important periods of Syrian history: Prehistory and Ancient history, Islamic era and Middle Ages as well as Ottoman period. The purpose of the 'red list' is to facilitate the work of police,





customs officials and all other professionals concerned with the protection of cultural property worldwide by helping them identify the categories of objects that are particularly vulnerable to illegal purchase, transaction and export.

"Illicit Syrian cultural goods that go back thousands of years were seized in Lebanon and Jordan. Syria's cultural heritage is in great danger and has already suffered irreparable damage," said Mohammed Ghanem. "It's not human beings only who are suffering in Syria. Our history is being victimized, too."

**SEE: Emergency Red List of Syrian Cultural Objects at Risk (Full List)**

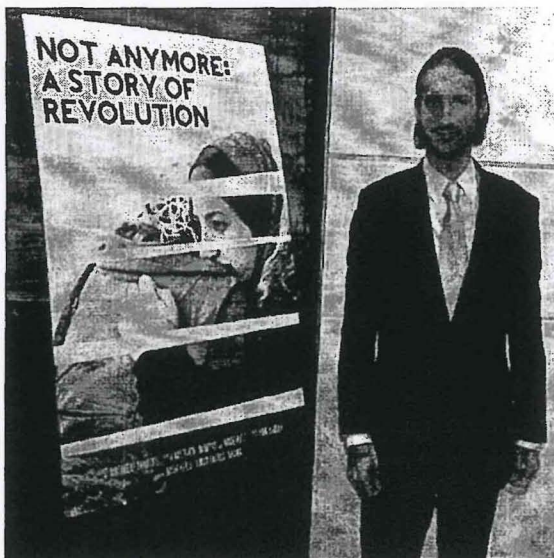
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## **Pro-Revolution Film Stripped of Award | Filmmaker Needs Your Support**

Assad supporters have successfully pressured the ARPA International Film Festival to retract a prestigious humanitarian award for the film *Not Anymore: A Story of Revolution* by documentary filmmaker Matthew Van Dyke who has been named honoree award recipient for his work which will be featured this Saturday, Sep 28th in Hollywood, CA.

**We need YOUR help to ensure the film and filmmaker get their deserved recognition and support from those who support the Syrian revolution.**

**You can help by calling, tweeting and Facebook messaging the festival:**



**Call the ARPA Film Festival at (310) 488-4458 or (323) 663-1882 and say:**

*I'm calling to voice my support for the film Not Anymore: A Story of Revolution and urge you to please reinstate the Armin T. Wegner Award for filmmaker Matthew Van Dyke. I urge you not to give in to the hollow threats of the pro-Assad thugs. The film accurately and courageously conveys the cries and voices of the Syrian people and it deserves your esteemed recognition.*

**Tweet @ARPAFilmFest and say:**

*@arpafilmfest please reinstate the award for @Matt\_VanDyke. His film gives a voice to the voiceless in Syria and deserves to be recognized.*

**Message them on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ArpaFilmFestival>**

**SEE: Not Anymore: A Story of Revolution documentary**

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## Skepticism Arises After UNSC Votes to Eliminate Syria's Chemical Weapons

On September 27, the UN Security Council (UNSC) voted unanimously Friday night to secure and destroy Syria's chemical weapons stockpile, after two weeks of intense negotiations.

"A red light for one form of weapons does not mean a green light for others," said Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. "This is not a license to kill with conventional weapons."

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov stressed that the resolution does not automatically impose sanctions on Syria. The resolution calls for consequences if Syria fails to comply, but those will depend on the council passing another resolution in the event of non-compliance. That will give Assad ally Russia the means to stop any punishment from being imposed.

Republican senators John McCain and Lindsey Graham, who have been harshly critical of Obama's policy on Syria, dismissed the resolution as "another triumph of hope over reality." It "contains no meaningful or immediate enforcement mechanisms, let alone a threat of the use of force for the Assad regime's non-compliance," they said in a statement that was highly skeptical that Russia would ever approve a threat of force for non-compliance.



**SEE: UN Votes to Eliminate Syria's Chemical Weapons**

## SAC-Los Angeles Seeks Field Organizer

**Job Title:** Field Organizer  
**Position:** Part-Time (10 hours per week)  
**Location:** Remote  
**Pay:** Commensurate with Experience

**\*Accepting applications until position is filled\***

### Job Description:

Establish broad grassroots presence across Southern California by organizing or assisting in the coordination of SAC-LA events. Field organizer will play a key role in assisting with organizing the community through campaigns, projects, activities and coordinating trainings and other workshops.

Particular focus will be devoted to organizing community members around grassroots campaigns in the areas of raising awareness on Syria, lobbying congress members and



**Syrian American Council**  
 Los Angeles Chapter



advocacy work, and fundraising.

Attendance at some weekend events and late evenings may be required.

**Qualifications:**

- Must be willing to travel frequently (mostly around Southern California), including some nights and weekends
- Strong organizational and time management skills
- Excellent English oral and written communication skills
- Ability to operate at a highly productive level in a fast-paced environment
- Ability to manage multiple projects concurrently
- Working knowledge of Microsoft Word, Excel, Facebook, Twitter, Gmail, and Mailchimp
- Knowledge of Photoshop is preferred
- Experience in communication, political advocacy, and public relations is preferred.

**Benefits:**

- Pay is hourly

**UPCOMING EVENTS**


**9/29 - Syria: A Silenced Scream Art Exhibit**  
Jersey City, NJ

**10/13 - UN Peace Walk for Syria**  
Scottsdale, AZ

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**10/19 - Spread the Smiles Eid Festival**  
Houston, TX

**10/20 - SAC-LA Eid Picnic**  
Anaheim, CA


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RELEASE IN FULL

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Archie Bolster, Senior Reviewer

**Bullard, Avery D**

**From:** Syrian American Council (SAC) <info@sacouncil.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 26, 2013 11:16 PM  
**To:** NEA-Syria-DL  
**Subject:** CDS Urges Caution in Iran Negotiations

**COALITION for a DEMOCRATIC SYRIA**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
 September 26, 2013

## **CDS Urges Caution in Iran Negotiations**

*Iranian regime should cease unfettered support to the Assad regime if it is truly sincere about 'constructive engagement'*

**Washington DC**--The Coalition for a Democratic Syria (CDS) condemns the Iranian regime's hypocrisy and urges President Obama to utilize extreme caution in considering negotiating with the Iranian regime. Despite Iranian President Hasan Rouhani's statement that Iran wants to see a "quick end to the killing of the innocent," Tehran has been a major enabler of the Assad regime in its vicious and ferocious military campaign against its own people.

Iranian Revolutionary Guard and Iran's proxy Hezbollah have been training and arming sectarian militias in Syria and Hezbollah has helped the regime tip the military balance on the ground in its favor since it formally joined the fight at the behest of Iran.

*Read more on President Rouhani's speech [here](#).*

When speaking of Iran's nuclear program, President Rouhani said "weapons of mass destruction have no place in Iran's security and defense doctrine." If Mr. Rouhani truly believed this, he would ensure that weapons of mass destruction, like the nerve agent sarin, did not have a place in his client states' defense doctrine either.

While Mr. Rouhani did condemn the use of chemical weapons in Syria, he failed to admit that his client, the Assad regime, was the one to use them. Rather than confronting Assad for his heinous use of these terrible weapons, Iran continues to aid and abet the crimes of the Assad regime.

"What we're seeing from the Iranian regime is just more hollow rhetoric," said CDS Chairman Dr. Yayha Basha. "Tehran says it wants a Middle East without weapons of mass destruction, but at the same time it actively supports a dictator who has used WMD against his own people. We don't believe that such a two-faced regime can be a trustworthy negotiating partner on resolving the conflict in Syria, dismantling Iran's nuclear weapons program, or any other international issue, and we urge President Obama to treat Mr. Rouhani accordingly."

### **About the Coalition for a Democratic Syria**

The Coalition for a Democratic Syria is a group of Syrian-American non-profit organizations working together to bring about a swift end to the conflict and support the establishment of peace, freedom, and democracy in Syria. The CDS is a multi-ethnic, multi-confessional, non-partisan organization.




The CDS includes: Syrian Emergency Task Force, Syrian American Council, United for Free Syria, Syrian American Alliance, Syrian Christians for Peace, Syrian Christians for Democracy, and the Association of Free Syrians.

###

**Contact:** SAC Director of Government Relations Mohammed Ghanem, 571-235-6517;  
[m.ghanem@sacouncil.com](mailto:m.ghanem@sacouncil.com).

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Syrian American Council | 20 F Street | Washington | DC | 20001

**Bullard, Avery D**

---

**From:** Kandil, Khulood  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 28, 2014 4:20 PM  
**To:** RELEASE IN PART  
B6 'Mohammed A Ghanem'  
**Cc:** McCandless, Daniel C  
**Subject:** RE: Nubbul and Zahra

**REVIEW AUTHORITY:** Archie Bolster, Senior Reviewer

Thank you. I'll forward up.

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:**  **On Behalf Of** Mohammed A Ghanem  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 28, 2014 4:19 PM  
**To:** Kandil, Khulood  
**Cc:** [mccandlessDC@sate.gov](mailto:mccandlessDC@sate.gov)  
**Subject:** Nubbul and Zahra

B6

Hi Khulood and Dan

This is to follow up on the conversation we had a few days before the launching of Geneva. I reached out to the armed opposition in Homs and they said they had a commitment from their colleagues in Aleppo that armed opposition in Aleppo would be willing to help with aid into Nubbul and Zahra provided that the regime grants unfettered and complete humanitarian access for Homs and Ghouta.

But they also said that ISIS is responsible for much of the blockade. As you know the opposition now is locked in a bitter battle with ISIS. They said if ISIS is seen as obstructing the deal and by extension aid for Homs and Ghouta this would actually help the opposition battling them now by further exposing ISIS.

Kindest regards  
Mohammed

--  
**Mohammed Alaa Ghanem**  
Senior Political Adviser, Government Relations Director, and Strategist  
Syrian American Council (SAC), Capitol Hill  
20 F Street NW, Washington D.C. 20001  
Telephone: 202-507-6318  
Fax: 202-507-6101  
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<http://www.sacouncil.com/>

B6

**Founded in 2005 in Burr Ridge, Illinois, the Syrian American Council is the largest Syrian-American community organization in the United States. It serves to amplify the voice of**



**the Syrian-American Community. SAC is a multi-ethnic, multi-confessional, non-partisan organization that includes members from all segments of Syrian society, and has over 22 chapters nationwide with thousands of supporters. It is an organization devoted to community organizing, awareness-raising, youth empowerment, media outreach, advocacy, and support for Syrians seeking to build a free and democratic Syria.**

**Bullard, Avery D**

---

**From:** Kandil, Khulood  
**Sent:** Friday, January 17, 2014 1:16 PM  
**To:** RELEASE IN PART  
B6 'Mohammed A Ghanem'  
**Subject:** RE: 'Third voice' to Geneva?

**REVIEW AUTHORITY:** Archie Bolster,  
Senior Reviewer

This is actually just for media coverage, not for participation in the actual talks. We welcome outside voices and encouraged Brahimi and the SOC to establish a mechanism to receive such input. I'm not aware of any third voice talks but Brahimi and our office of Global Women's Issues met with Syrian women and civil society last weekend as you know. Hopefully, the SOC will select someone to represent these groups in their delegation. But we support a unified, representative delegation and would see any parallel group as distracting and detract from the productiveness of the SOC delegation.

Are you going to Geneva?

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**From:**  **On Behalf Of** Mohammed A Ghanem  
**Sent:** Friday, January 17, 2014 12:24 PM  
**To:** Kandil, Khulood  
**Subject:** 'Third voice' to Geneva?

B6

Hi Khulood

Someone passed the attached CSO letter on to me. I know DoS is interested in a 'third voice' in Geneva. Can you give me an idea who the DoS has sponsored so far?

And are different departments within DoS sponsoring different people or is this all coordinated?

Many thanks  
Mohammed

--

**Mohammed Alaa Ghanem**  
Senior Political Adviser, Government Relations Director, and Strategist  
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**awareness-raising, youth empowerment, media outreach, advocacy, and support for Syrians seeking to build a free and democratic Syria.**

**Bullard, Avery D**

---

**From:** Kandil, Khulood  
**Sent:** Monday, January 27, 2014 4:04 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: WINEP Webcast on Geneva 12:30 EST

B6

Yeah. I just checked the site and looks like it's available.

RELEASE IN  
PART B6

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Archie  
Bolster, Senior Reviewer

Wow. An assistant to type up notes? I wish I had that.

I've heard that theory a lot. Too bad it's flawed.

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---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 27, 2014 2:41 PM  
**To:** Kandil, Khulood  
**Subject:** Re: WINEP Webcast on Geneva 12:30 EST

B6

The webcast should be available on their website. I have notes from the event I can share with you if you like after my assistant types them up.

I spoke to Aaron after the event about his shallow analysis and guess what the response was. He said he doesn't care about threats from AQ but just wants Iran and its proxy to be further bogged down in Syria. That was horrible to hear!

Best  
Mohammed

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 27, 2014, at 2:11 PM, "Kandil, Khulood" <[KandilK@state.gov](mailto:KandilK@state.gov)> wrote:

That's disappointing. I wonder if I can still view it.

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---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 27, 2014 1:55 PM  
**To:** Kandil, Khulood  
**Subject:** Re: WINEP Webcast on Geneva 12:30 EST

B6



Zelin clearly is out of touch -- talk of genocide in the context of Islamic Front is idiocy.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 27, 2014, at 1:48 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:

B6

Aron is very shallow and basically just reported what he's been reading on social media. Andrew is good.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 27, 2014, at 12:07 PM, "Kandil, Khulood" <[KandilK@state.gov](mailto:KandilK@state.gov)> wrote:

I really wanted to. Looks super interesting. But the building got me.

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**On Behalf Of** Mohammed A Ghanem  
**Sent:** Monday, January 27, 2014 11:58 AM  
**To:** Kandil, Khulood  
**Subject:** Re: WINEP Webcast on Geneva 12:30 EST

Will be there. You going there?

On Mon, Jan 27, 2014 at 11:51 AM, Kandil, Khulood  
<[KandilK@state.gov](mailto:KandilK@state.gov)> wrote:

**Washington Institute** @washinstitute2h

Plan lunch at your desk for #Geneva2 #Syria webcast  
w/@AndrewTabler @JeffWhite25 @AZelin & Jeffrey 12:30p EST  
[washingtoninstitute.org/st/1lgmXw6](https://washingtoninstitute.org/st/1lgmXw6)

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--

**Mohammed Alaa Ghanem**

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**Bullard, Avery D**

---

**From:** Kandil, Khulood  
**Sent:** Monday, January 27, 2014 6:20 PM  
**To:** 'Mohammed A Ghanem'  
**Subject:** RE: FW: Non-Lethal Aid

RELEASE IN PART  
B6

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Archie Bolster,  
Senior Reviewer

Oh man.

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---

**From:** [REDACTED] **On Behalf Of** Mohammed A Ghanem  
**Sent:** Monday, January 27, 2014 6:19 PM  
**To:** Kandil, Khulood  
**Subject:** Re: FW: Non-Lethal Aid

B6

Homsis have refused to do so without guarantees these women and children won't be butchered after they leave. In general this is not what the opposition is calling for. They are calling for the siege to be completely lifted and for unfettered access for humanitarian organizations. The Assad regime would love to effect further population transfers especially in Homs. They have already done a lot of that to change the demographics of strategic Homs. The opposition sure is on board with evacuating the wounded, the sick, and civilians who would like to leave.

See attached from children from Homs. One of the signs says, "To those convening in Geneva, our core demand is for the siege to be lifted not just for some aid to be allowed in"

On Mon, Jan 27, 2014 at 6:10 PM, Kandil, Khulood <[KandilK@state.gov](mailto:KandilK@state.gov)> wrote:

What about the women and children statement though?

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---

**From:** [REDACTED] **On Behalf Of** Mohammed A Ghanem  
**Sent:** Monday, January 27, 2014 6:10 PM

B6

**To:** Kandil, Khulood  
**Subject:** Re: FW: Non-Lethal Aid

No progress at all. Since the start of the talks 244 people have been killed in Homs including 100 women and 30 children. There are trucks ready to go in but the regime won't allow them.

On Mon, Jan 27, 2014 at 6:04 PM, Kandil, Khulood <[KandilK@state.gov](mailto:KandilK@state.gov)> wrote:

Any progress in Homs?

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---

**From:**  **On Behalf Of** Mohammed A Ghanem  
**Sent:** Monday, January 27, 2014 6:03 PM

B6

**To:** Kandil, Khulood  
**Subject:** Re: FW: Non-Lethal Aid

Don't worry about that all. Think of me as the insatiable guy :)

By the way, following attempts by the regime to get the opposition bogged down in details yesterday, the opposition steered the conversation back to where it should be, thereby exposing the regime. In response, the regime's Deputy Foreign Minister Faisal Mekdad said, "We're here to discuss terrorism, not transfer of power" prompting Ibrahimi to adjourn the session.

No progress has been made on humanitarian access to starving populations long under siege. UNRWA said a regime checkpoint blocked their access to the Yarmouk Camp in Damascus where multiple deaths due to starvation have been reported lately.

Best  
Mohammed

On Mon, Jan 27, 2014 at 5:59 PM, Kandil, Khulood <[KandilK@state.gov](mailto:KandilK@state.gov)> wrote:

Let me know if anything I send gets too "spammy"



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---

**From:** [REDACTED] **On Behalf Of** Mohammed A Ghanem  
**Sent:** Monday, January 27, 2014 5:59 PM  
**To:** Kandil, Khulood  
**Subject:** Re: FW: Non-Lethal Aid

B6

I sure am. Thanks much.

On Mon, Jan 27, 2014 at 4:49 PM, Kandil, Khulood <[KandilK@state.gov](mailto:KandilK@state.gov)> wrote:

Thought you might be interested...

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---

**From:** Kandil, Khulood  
**Sent:** Monday, January 27, 2014 4:49 PM  
**To:** 'Evan Barrett'  
**Subject:** RE: Non-Lethal Aid

Hi Evan,

Sorry for the delay.

In late December, we resumed deliveries of non-lethal assistance into northern Syria to civilian actors inside Syria including: local and provincial councils and civil society groups. These deliveries help these local groups provide essential services and counter violent extremists. Deliveries to unarmed actors include: ambulances, garbage trucks, big generators, food baskets, school supplies, office equipment as well as assistance to police. Note that this was entirely separate from humanitarian aid which was uninterrupted before, during and after the IF seizure of SMC warehouses.

For this assistance to civilian actors, we reassessed the methods for delivering this assistance and felt confident that it was able to reach the intended recipients and is secure. We hope to do so soon on the assistance to armed actors but as it stands, we have not resumed deliveries quite yet.

Let me know if this was helpful or if you have more questions please.

Khulood M. Kandil

Syria Desk Officer

desk

cell

[kandilk@state.gov](mailto:kandilk@state.gov)

B6

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---

**From:** Evan Barrett   
**Sent:** Monday, January 27, 2014 8:41 AM  
**To:** Kandil, Khulood  
**Subject:** Non-Lethal Aid

Hey Khulood,

Is this true: [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/01/27/syria-conflict-us-aid\\_n\\_4672229.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/01/27/syria-conflict-us-aid_n_4672229.html)



If so, any insight into why the reversal? If not, any insight into where the story is coming from.

Evan

--

Evan McCarthy Barrett

Washington D.C.

B6

--

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Mohammed Alaa Ghanem

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**Bullard, Avery D**

---

**From:** Kandil, Khulood  
**Sent:** RELEASE IN  
PART B6 Monday, January 27, 2014 10:58 AM  
**To:** 'Mohammed A Ghanem'  
**Subject:** RE: Touching base

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Archie Bolster,  
Senior Reviewer

Great. Will do. Have a safe trip!

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** [redacted] [mailto:[redacted]] **On Behalf Of** Mohammed A Ghanem  
**Sent:** Monday, January 27, 2014 10:27 AM  
**To:** Kandil, Khulood  
**Subject:** Touching base

B6

Hi Khulood

I'm monitoring the situation in Geneva very closely and I'm in touch with the opposition there. Should you request any information, please don't hesitate to let me know.

I would also be grateful if you could keep me in the loop about you guys. I don't mind reading long emails.

Many thanks  
Mohammed

--  
Mohammed Alaa Ghanem  
Senior Political Adviser, Government Relations Director, and Strategist  
Syrian American Council (SAC), Capitol Hill  
20 F Street NW, Washington D.C. 20001  
Telephone: [redacted]  
Fax: 202-507-6101  
Mobile: [redacted]  
<http://www.sacouncil.com/>

**Founded in 2005 in Burr Ridge, Illinois, the Syrian American Council is the largest Syrian-American community organization in the United States. It serves to amplify the voice of the Syrian-American Community. SAC is a multi-ethnic, multi-confessional, non-partisan organization that includes members from all segments of Syrian society, and has over 22 chapters nationwide with thousands of supporters. It is an organization devoted to community organizing, awareness-raising, youth empowerment, media outreach, advocacy, and support for Syrians seeking to build a free and democratic Syria.**



**Bullard, Avery D**

---

**From:** Kandil, Khulood  
**Sent:** Friday, January 24, 2014 6:51 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: [REDACTED]

B6

RELEASE IN  
PART B6

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Archie  
Bolster, Senior Reviewer

Thanks! How many does oppo have?

---

**From:** Mohammed Alaa Ghanem [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 24, 2014 06:11 PM Eastern Standard Time  
**To:** Kandil, Khulood  
**Subject:** Re: [REDACTED]

Sorry, I was away from office for most of the day.

It's 9. Attached please find all the names. With Assad's mission already there, the total number is 50.

On Fri, Jan 24, 2014 at 2:27 PM, Kandil, Khulood <KandilK@state.gov> wrote:  
Random q: do you know how big oppo and regime dels are? Just negotiating del not tech team. Thanks

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 24, 2014 02:19 PM Eastern Standard Time  
**To:** Kandil, Khulood  
**Subject:** Re: [REDACTED]

Not accurate. Glosses over how it came down. I'll update you when I'm at my laptop.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 24, 2014, at 12:23 PM, "Kandil, Khulood" <KandilK@state.gov> wrote:

[http://m.washingtonpost.com/world/right-from-the-start-syrian-peace-talks-on-brink-of-collapse/2014/01/24/ceadfbe6-84f5-11e3-a273-6ffd9cf9f4ba\\_story.html?tid=HP\\_lede](http://m.washingtonpost.com/world/right-from-the-start-syrian-peace-talks-on-brink-of-collapse/2014/01/24/ceadfbe6-84f5-11e3-a273-6ffd9cf9f4ba_story.html?tid=HP_lede)

"Long-awaited peace talks between Syria's warring factions were on the brink of collapse Friday after the Syrian opposition refused to enter into direct talks with the government and the government delegation threatened to go home."

---

**From:** Mohammed A Ghanem [mailto:[REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 24, 2014 11:59 AM Eastern Standard Time  
**To:** Kandil, Khulood  
**Subject:** [REDACTED]

I hope you're feeling better, Khulood.

Please check this out. Are you aware of any discussion about designating [REDACTED]  
a terrorist group? I hope it's not true. It would spell disaster.



B6

Thanks  
Mohammed

--

Mohammed Alaa Ghanem

Senior Political Adviser, Government Relations Director, and Strategist

Syrian American Council (SAC), Capitol Hill

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**Bullard, Avery D**

---

**From:** Kandil, Khulood  
**Sent:** Monday, January 20, 2014 12:57 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED] Staples, David A (NEA/PPD)  
**Subject:** Re: Reporter's claims

B6

RELEASE IN  
PART B6

REVIEW AUTHORITY:  
Archie Bolster, Senior  
Reviewer

Thanks.

---

**From:** Mohammed A Ghanem [mailto:[REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 20, 2014 12:46 PM Eastern Standard Time  
**To:** Staples, David A (NEA/PPD); Kandil, Khulood  
**Subject:** Reporter's claims

Dear David and Khulood

To investigate the claims of the reporter, the president of the Syrian American Council met in Michigan with [REDACTED] and brought up this issue with him personally. Here's a statement from [REDACTED] in Arabic and English. He unequivocally rejects targeting civilians "using any method" I hope this clear statement puts this issue to rest.

**Statement from** [REDACTED]

In the name of God, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

Peace and the mercy of God be upon you

It is not permissible to kill civilians (non-combatants) using any method, regardless of their national, ethnic, or religious backgrounds. I have stressed this hundreds of times in my lectures.

[REDACTED]

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله

لا يجوز قتل أي إنسان مدني (غير محارب) بصرف النظر عن جنسيته وعرقه وديانته ومذهبه وبأية طريقة كانت

وهذا ذكرته مئات المرات في دروسي.

B6

--  
Mohammed Alaa Ghanem  
Senior Political Adviser, Government Relations Director, and Strategist  
Syrian American Council (SAC), Capitol Hill  
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**Bullard, Avery D**

---

**From:** Kandil, Khulood  
**Sent:** Friday, January 17, 2014 7:10 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: Do you want me to email you updates over the weekend or will you be off?

RELEASE IN  
PART B6

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Archie  
Bolster, Senior Reviewer

Haha--never off! Yes, sure please.

---

**From:** Mohammed A Ghanem [mailto:[REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 17, 2014 07:03 PM Eastern Standard Time  
**To:** Kandil, Khulood  
**Subject:** Do you want me to email you updates over the weekend or will you be off?

--  
**Mohammed Alaa Ghanem**  
Senior Political Adviser, Government Relations Director, and Strategist  
Syrian American Council (SAC), Capitol Hill  
20 F Street NW, Washington D.C. 20001  
Telephone: [REDACTED]  
Fax: 202-507-6101  
Mobile: [REDACTED]  
<http://www.sacouncil.com/>

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**Bullard, Avery D**

---

**From:** Kandil, Khulood  
**Sent:** Friday, January 17, 2014 6:46 PM  
**To:** 'Mohammed Alaa Ghanem'  
**Subject:** RE: any luck?

**REVIEW AUTHORITY:** Archie Bolster, Senior Reviewer

Put the onus on him for making apparently baseless claims. Irresponsible journalism.

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Mohammed Alaa Ghanem  
**Sent:** Friday, January 17, 2014 6:46 PM  
**To:** Kandil, Khulood  
**Subject:** Re: any luck?

B6

I will.

On Fri, Jan 17, 2014 at 6:44 PM, Kandil, Khulood <[KandilK@state.gov](mailto:KandilK@state.gov)> wrote:

Can you ask that reporter dude to send you his source? What is he basing this off of then?

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Mohammed Alaa Ghanem  
**Sent:** Friday, January 17, 2014 6:16 PM

B6

**To:** Kandil, Khulood  
**Subject:** Re: any luck?

I couldn't find anything on the website that incites violence against Jews around the world. If you find something, please alert me.

On Fri, Jan 17, 2014 at 6:09 PM, Kandil, Khulood <[KandilK@state.gov](mailto:KandilK@state.gov)> wrote:

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 17, 2014 5:07 PM  
**To:** Kandil, Khulood  
**Subject:** Re: any luck?

B6

Mr. Earle,

Thank you for contacting us.

The Syrian American Council (SAC) has invited [REDACTED] to visit the US as a guest speaker at several events in order to share his message of hope and unity with regards to the dire situation in Syria. [REDACTED] is well known for being an a-political religious leader. His mission has focused on promoting goodness, reconciliation, peace, and empathy with those who are in need. We are not aware of any of the controversial statements or comments you referred to and which we find contradictory to his life-long mission and teachings of peace, shared humanity, and self-purification. We will certainly investigate these claims. SAC, as an organization that strives for human rights, democracy, and justice for all in Syria unequivocally opposes and rejects any justification of or call to harming innocent people anywhere in the world regardless of their ethnic or religious background.

B6

As for your question about the fundraising itself, all donations received during the scheduled events will be collected by the Dallas-based relief organization Shaam for Relief - a US registered nonprofit focusing on the human tragedy in Syria - to provide humanitarian and medical relief for the victims of Assad's brutal war, inside Syria and in Syrian refugee camps in Syria's neighboring country. I encourage you to visit that organization's website to learn more about its projects and campaigns.

Thank you.

Rashad Al-Dabbagh

Communications Director

SAC



Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 17, 2014, at 4:34 PM, "Kandil, Khulood" <[KandilK@state.gov](mailto:KandilK@state.gov)> wrote:

Khulood M. Kandil

Syria Desk Officer

desk

cell

[kandilk@state.gov](mailto:kandilk@state.gov)

B6

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

**Bullard, Avery D**

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 03, 2014 1:35 PM  
**To:** 'Mohammed A Ghanem'; Kandil, Khulood  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: [REDACTED] Meeting

RELEASE IN  
PART B6REVIEW AUTHORITY: Archie  
Bolster, Senior Reviewer

B6

Thanks, Mohammed. Can we make it slightly later – maybe noon? We were also thinking it might be useful to turn it into a broader roundtable and bring in some more offices who will all be interested in his work and ideas. Would that be acceptable? Thanks,

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED] **On Behalf Of** Mohammed A Ghanem  
**Sent:** Friday, January 03, 2014 1:08 PM  
**To:** Kandil, Khulood  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: [REDACTED] Meeting

B6

Thanks, Khulood.

Hi [REDACTED]

My name is Mohammed A. Ghanem. I'm senior political adviser and director of government relations with the Syrian American Council. We're hosting [REDACTED] on Jan. 6-7. [REDACTED] is from the opposition-held city of Kafranbel and has been heavily involved in numerous activities designed to establish a post-Assad civil society in Syria. [REDACTED] and the man behind Kafranbel's famous banners, demonstrations and political cartoons. A peaceful activist, he hasn't left Syria ever since the revolution started in March 2011. A few days ago, the media center in Kafranbel was ransacked by members of the al-Qaeda linked Islamic State of Iraq and Sham, and a number of [REDACTED] colleagues were kidnapped.

I would like [REDACTED] to meet with you. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss community-based projects inside Syria and what steps the U.S. can take to support civilian efforts. Part of the discussions would also include how these projects have been helping local communities inside Syria and how they have been affected by the Al-Qaeda affiliate group, the Islamic State of Iraq and Sham (ISIS) "Greater Syria."

[REDACTED] will attend the meeting. [REDACTED] has worked with many civil society groups inside Syria, where he recently returned from a trip to the border region to deliver humanitarian aid.

B6

Ideally we would meet Monday morning following our meeting with Mr. Ford like 11:30 AM. Would that work for you?

Let me know

Many thanks

Mohammed

On Fri, Jan 3, 2014 at 11:59 AM, Kandil, Khulood <[KandilK@state.gov](mailto:KandilK@state.gov)> wrote:

and Mohammed,

B6

I am putting you, CSO, in touch with Mohammed from SAC to set up the  meeting.

Ambassador Ford is tentatively set to meet with him on Monday at 10am so I would recommend sometime shortly after if that works with your schedules.

Thank you,

Khulood M. Kandil

Syria Desk Officer

desk

cell

[kandilk@state.gov](mailto:kandilk@state.gov)

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.



--  
Mohammed Alaa Ghanem

Senior Political Adviser, Government Relations Director, and Strategist

Syrian American Council (SAC), Capitol Hill

20 F Street NW, Washington D.C. 20001

Telephone:

Fax: 202-507-6101

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<http://www.sacouncil.com/>

B6

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**Bullard, Avery D**

---

**From:** Kandil, Khulood  
**Sent:** Friday, January 03, 2014 11:54 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** NEA-Syria-DL; CSO Syria  
**Subject:** RE: Meeting with Kafranbel Activist

RELEASE IN PART  
B5, B6

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Archie Bolster, Senior  
Reviewer

B6

Good idea. Do you recommend maybe one large meeting then?

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 03, 2014 11:51 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED] Kandil, Khulood  
**Cc:** NEA-Syria-DL; CSO Syria  
**Subject:** RE: Meeting with Kafranbel Activist

B6

Thanks, much. If [REDACTED] isn't too shy, would be good to offer some exposure to [REDACTED] and other folk together or in separate meetings.

B5

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 03, 2014 10:51 AM  
**To:** Kandil, Khulood; [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** NEA-Syria-DL; CSO Syria  
**Subject:** RE: Meeting with Kafranbel Activist

B6

Thanks, Khulood. We have worked closely with [REDACTED] and would be interested in a meeting with him when he is in town.

---

**From:** Kandil, Khulood  
**Sent:** Friday, January 03, 2014 10:33 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** NEA-Syria-DL; CSO Syria  
**Subject:** Meeting with Kafranbel Activist

Maria,

Would CSO be interested in such a meeting? Thank you. Khulood

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** [REDACTED] **On Behalf Of** Mohammed A Ghanem  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 02, 2014 8:42 PM

To: Kandil, Khulood

Subject: Re:

SAC is hosting [redacted] on Jan 6-7. [redacted] is from the opposition-held city of Kafranbel and have been heavily involved in numerous activities designed to establish a post-Assad civil society in Syria. [redacted] and the man behind Kafranbel's famous banners, demonstrations and political cartoons. A peaceful activist, he hasn't left Syria ever since the revolution started in March 2011. A few days ago, the media center in Kafranbel was ransacked by members of the al-Qaeda linked Islamic State of Iraq and Sham, and a number of [redacted] colleagues were kidnapped. [redacted] is available to brief the DoS on a range of issues including community-based projects inside Syria and what steps the U.S. can take to support these projects. I'm already in touch with MEPI about a meeting and they're very interested. I would like to set up a meeting with CSO and Syria Desk. Can I coordinate with you on the Syria Desk? Who in CSO should I contact?

B6

Let me know please.,

Best

Mohammed

--  
Mohammed Alaa Ghanem

Senior Political Adviser, Government Relations Director, and Strategist

Syrian American Council (SAC), Capitol Hill

20 F Street NW, Washington D.C. 20001

Telephone: [redacted]

Fax: 202-507-6101

Mobile: [redacted]

<http://www.sacouncil.com/>

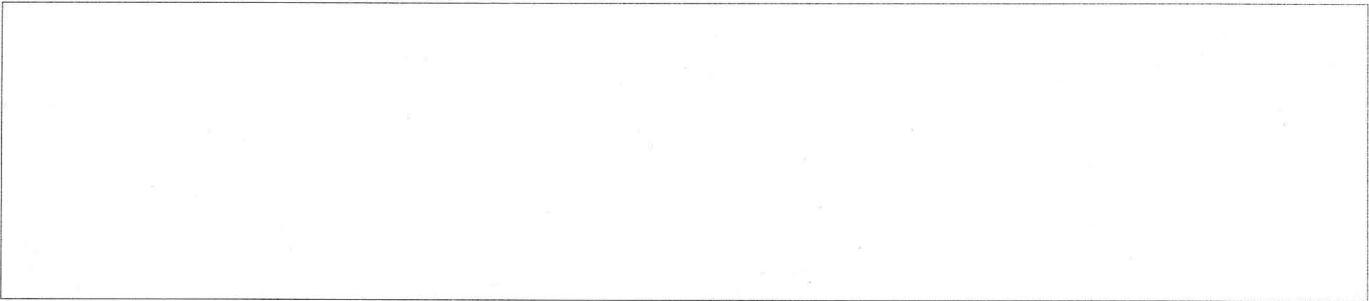
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**Bullard, Avery D**

---

<b>From:</b> <b>Sent:</b> <b>To:</b> <b>Cc:</b> <b>Subject:</b>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">RELEASE IN PART B5, B6</div> Ford, Robert S Monday, December 30, 2013 6:15 AM NEA-Syria-DL; Polaschik, Joan A; Finer, Jonathan J; Patterson, Anne W Laseňsky, Scott B; Ried, Curtis R; Moeling, Benjamin X; Feierstein, Gerald M Fw: Urgent/Guarantor needed for al-Moadamiyeh negotiations	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">REVIEW AUTHORITY: Archie Bolster, Senior Reviewer</div>
---	---	--

From outside oppositionist with ties into groups around Damascus.



B5

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

---

**From:** Mohammed A Ghanem  
**Sent:** Monday, December 30, 2013 1:20 AM  
**To:** Ford, Robert S  
**Cc:** Eussen, Matthew; Kandil, Khulood; Roman, Lisa; Alzayat, Wa'el N  
**Subject:** Urgent/Guarantor needed for al-Moadamiyeh negotiations

Mr. Ford

Greetings of the season. I hope you're enjoying the holidays.

As you know al- Moadamiyeh, a suburb of Damascus, just a 20-minute drive from the Presidential Palace, has been under an iron-clad siege since March as part of Assad's starvation strategy. No bag of wheat or bottle of milk ever made it into the devastated town since March. Al-Moadamiyeh was attacked with chemical weapons and air strikes in August. About 8500 people are trapped inside including women and children. As people ran out of food, some resorted to eating leaves and stray cats and dogs.

After some women, children, and older men died of malnutrition and starvation, the FSA in al- Moadamiyeh was forced to enter into negotiations for a truce with the regime. In exchange for flying the regime's flag over the town's water tower, the regime yesterday allowed 3 small KIA pick-up trucks with some food supplies to



enter al-Moadamiyeh. The trucks had some fava beans cans, some bread, tuna, sugar, lentils, pasta, and burgle. The supplies can barely last 8500 people for two or three days maximum. The FSA and regime yesterday concluded their second day of negotiations. They reached out to us asking if the US or UN would be able to guarantee an agreement should one be reached with the regime. The regime has a history of not honoring their agreements and the people in al-Moadamiyeha fear a wholesale massacre should the FSA turn over their heavier weaponry. I can fill you in on the details and the framework for the ongoing negotiation but we would like to know if the US or UN can help guarantee such an agreement. I could facilitate Skype calls with the FSA in the besieged town.

Your prompt response would be highly appreciated.

Best wishes for the coming year

Mohammed

--

Mohammed Alaa Ghanem

Senior Political Adviser, Government Relations Director, and Strategist

Syrian American Council (SAC), Capitol Hill

20 F Street NW, Washington D.C. 20001

Telephone:

Fax: 202-507-6101

<http://www.sacouncil.com/>

B6

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**Bullard, Avery D****From:**

[redacted] on behalf of Mohammed A Ghanem

B6

**Sent:****RELEASE IN  
PART B6**

&lt;m.ghanem@sacouncil.com&gt;

Thursday, December 26, 2013 2:50 PM

**Subject:**

Syrian American Council, Personnel Update

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Archie  
Bolster, Senior Reviewer**

Dear members, colleagues, and supporters

I'm delighted to announce that Messrs. Chad Brand and Shlomo Bolts have joined SAC DC as Government Relations Officer and Policy and Advocacy Officer respectively.

Earlier this month, SAC DC Advocacy and Projects Officer, Jason T. Hunt, left to extend a helping hand to the Etilaf's office in Washington D.C. where he serves now. For over a year, Mr. Hunt gave the cause in D.C. efficient service. We wish him the best of luck and thank him for his service.

In early 2013 **Chad Brand** was a congressional researcher with LegiStorm, an online congressional information provider, where he performed congressional research that involved the updating and maintenance of a comprehensive database of over 16,000 members working on Capitol Hill. Prior to that, Chad was a Congressional Outreach Fellow with the Syrian American Council where he supported SAC's congressional outreach and advocacy efforts. For two years prior to that as a staff writer for Congressional Quarterly's CQ Homeland Security, Chad covered, in part, a variety of foreign policy issues addressed by Congress that included committee hearings and markups that addressed U.S. policy towards Syria, particularly legislative efforts to ramp up sanctions against the Assad regime. Two years prior to that position - starting in Oct. 2007 - he was a researcher and staff writer for Roll Call's Briefing Room, where in writing for the Foreign Policy and Trade brief he provided in-depth coverage and analysis of U.S. policy in the Middle East - in particular the potential impact of the June 2009 Lebanese elections on future U.S.-Lebanese relations. Six years prior to this - starting in 2001 - Chad worked for Gallerywatch, an online legislative tracking service. As Manager of Congressional Operations from 2004 to 2007 he was responsible, in part, for meeting specific client requests for information. One of those clients was the Syrian Embassy.

Chad graduated in 2000 from American University with a master's degree in international relations. His studies concentrated on U.S. foreign policy towards the Middle East - this included drafting a policy paper evaluating several possible policy options that the Clinton Administration could employ towards Iran. His graduate thesis was an examination of U.S.-Israeli relations within the context of the efficacy of pressure by Washington against Tel Aviv. He has a bachelor's degree in political science from Hartwick College.

**Shlomo Bolts** has been working for over a year to advance the Syrian Revolution, in partnership with Coalition for a Democratic Syria member groups. He began his journey last September as a Policy Fellow with Syrian Expatriates' Organization (SEO), where he helped support SEO's humanitarian projects and represented SEO at Congressional meetings. After SEO, he worked briefly as a researcher and writer with the Etilaf's DC office, before branching out to more grassroots awareness-raising last summer. Since then, he has spoken at a Syrian Emergency Task Force panel, has helped arrange a Syrian American Council event with the Jewish Federation, and has been featured in the Jewish media for his Syria efforts.

Shlomo graduated from Columbia University in 2010 with a BA in Political Science and Sociology. In 2011, he received his MPhil in Modern Society and Global Transformations from Cambridge University, with a dissertation on the Kashmiri and Palestinian uprisings. He started in DC as a Middle East Intern for International Institute for Strategic Studies, then joined Project on Middle East Democracy to support the Arab Spring more directly, before zeroing in on Syria at CDS. Shlomo is also a Prison Reform Consultant for the Orthodox Jewish social justice group Uri L'Tzedek, and has been an activist for human rights, atrocities prevention, and Jewish-Arab dialogue for a number of years. He has ancestry from the Jewish communities of Aleppo, Syria.

Please join me in extending a heartfelt welcome to Chad and Shlomo!

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely

Mohammed

--  
Mohammed Alaa Ghanem  
Senior Political Adviser, Government Relations Director, and Strategist  
Syrian American Council (SAC), Capitol Hill  
20 F Street NW, Washington D.C. 20001  
Telephone:   
Fax: 202-507-6101  
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B6



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**Bullard, Avery D**

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**From:** Kandil, Khulood  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 17, 2013 5:54 PM  
**To:** 'Ramanan, Aparna'; 'Mohammed A Ghanem'  
**Cc:** 'Brandenburg, Rachel'  
**Subject:** RE: Additional Invite

**REVIEW AUTHORITY:** Archie  
Bolster, Senior Reviewer

Mohammed,

Would you be able to assist us please?

Thank you,  
Khulood

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Ramanan, Aparna [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 17, 2013 5:53 PM  
**To:** Kandil, Khulood  
**Cc:** Brandenburg, Rachel  
**Subject:** RE: Additional Invite

B6

Hi Khulood,

Steve and Oubab had actually previously discussed [REDACTED] and thought he was an excellent prospective participant. Do you have an email address for him?

Additionally, were you able to find an email for [REDACTED]?

Thanks,  
Aparna

---

**From:** Kandil, Khulood [mailto:KandilK@state.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 17, 2013 4:51 PM  
**To:** Ramanan, Aparna  
**Cc:** Brandenburg, Rachel  
**Subject:** Additional Invite

Aparna and Rachel,

Would it be possible to extend an invitation to [REDACTED] an influential and very well-known [REDACTED]?

Syrian American Council just told me he will serendipitously be in DC anyway that week.

Thank you,

Khulood M. Kandil  
Syria Desk Officer  
[redacted] desk  
[redacted] cell  
[kandilk@state.gov](mailto:kandilk@state.gov)

B6

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

**Bullard, Avery D**

---

**From:** RELEASE IN PART B6  
**Sent:** Friday, December 13, 2013 12:54 PM  
**To:** PRM-ANE Syria; Wong, Megan A  
**Cc:** NEA-Syria-DL; Lieberman, Dean; Badawy, Dina A; Ford, Robert S; Fogarty, Daniel J; Ward, Mark S (D/MET); START\_Syria  
**Subject:** Fw: Children dying of hypothermia

**REVIEW AUTHORITY:** Archie Bolster, Senior Reviewer

Fyi.

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, December 13, 2013 10:46 AM  
**To:** Alzayat, Wa'el N  
**Cc:** Ford, Robert S; Roman, Lisa; Kandil, Khulood; Eussen, Matthew  
**Subject:** Re: Children dying of hypothermia

B6

Rastan, Homs.

Here's what SHRN sent out this morning.

Best  
Mohammed

***9 Syrian Children ..... died because of cold bitterly cold temperature***

Syrian Network for Human Rights documented the death of 9 children , because of the severe cold temperature within the past two days, They have been distributed as follows:

North of Syria: 4 cases for new born children in Jarablus refugee camp in Minbij, as one case for a children in Maysar neighborhood in 11/12/2013.

Many cases of death because of cold in Aleppo central prison, we couldn't have the exact number and names up to this moment.

Centre of Syria: Homs governorate three children in Homs: two in Houla village and one girl infant in Waar neighborhood .

South of Syria: documented the death of one girl in child in Hara town of Daraa governorate

The Syrian Government continues to act in flagrant disregard about what happening of terrible humanitarian crisis in Syria, they even use this crises to pressure the Syrian society to stop and regret their demands of freedom and dignity.

The international community is still helpless towards Syrian terrible humanitarian crisis, and unable to do anything from more than two years regarding the safe humanitarian corridors, while it was very easy and quickly to secure passes to international inspectors for chemical disarmament to work safely, the charitable organizations including the International Red Cross can't do this!!!!.

Security council was able to order Syrian Government to allow cross-border aids, but at the end of September Russia has no desire to do it, and the international community was satisfied and accepted this decision.

الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان - سورية

Syrian Network for Human Rights - Syria

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 12, 2013, at 10:37 PM, "Alzayat, Wa'el N" <[alzayatwn@state.gov](mailto:alzayatwn@state.gov)> wrote:

We were afraid of this happening this winter. I can't open on my bb. Where is this?

---

**From:** Mohammed A Ghanem [mailto: ]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 11, 2013 08:05 PM  
**To:** Ford, Robert S  
**Cc:** Roman, Lisa; Kandil, Khulood; Eussen, Matthew; Alzayat, Wa'el N  
**Subject:** Children dying of hypothermia

FYI

Amid freezing snows, children are freezing to death



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8yG-Nvq-zLA&list=PLYH7Vr0mph1lyarhtqiFNsju4hSrMC9fI>

Sincerely  
Mohammed

--

Mohammed Alaa Ghanem

Senior Political Adviser, Government Relations Director, and Strategist

Syrian American Council (SAC), Capitol Hill

20 F Street NW, Washington D.C. 20001

Telephone:

Fax: 202-507-6101

Mobile:

<http://www.sacouncil.com/>

B6

**Founded in 2005 in Burr Ridge Illinois, the Syrian American Council is the largest Syrian-American community organization in the United States. It serves to amplify the voice of the Syrian-American Community. SAC includes members from all segments of Syrian society, and has over 20 chapters nationwide with thousands of supporters. It is an organization devoted to community organizing, awareness-raising, youth empowerment, media outreach, advocacy, and support for Syrians seeking to build a free and democratic Syria.**

**Bullard, Avery D**

---

**From:** [redacted] on behalf of Jason Hunt [redacted]  
**Sent:** Monday, December 09, 2013 2:34 PM  
**To:** Kandil, Khulood  
**Cc:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** **RELEASE IN PART B6** Re: Accepting New Position **REVIEW AUTHORITY: Archie Bolster, Senior Reviewer**

B6

Sorry for the delay! My new position is [redacted], and I've CC'd my new work email address.

Best,  
Jason

On Wed, Dec 4, 2013 at 2:10 PM, Kandil, Khulood <[KandilK@state.gov](mailto:KandilK@state.gov)> wrote:

What position are you taking there?

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** [redacted] **On Behalf Of** Jason Hunt

**Sent:** Wednesday, December 04, 2013 10:35 AM  
**To:** Kandil, Khulood  
**Subject:** Re: Accepting New Position

Thanks! The news wasn't quite as sudden as this email makes it sound, but I'm looking forward to the new opportunity regardless.

Jason T. Hunt

Advocacy and Projects Officer,

Syrian American Council (SAC), Capitol Hill  
20 F Street NW, Washington D.C. 20001  
Telephone: [redacted]  
Mobile: [redacted]  
[www.sacouncil.com](http://www.sacouncil.com)

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On Wed, Dec 4, 2013 at 10:30 AM, Kandil, Khulood <[KandilK@state.gov](mailto:KandilK@state.gov)> wrote:

Whoaaa! Big news and congratulations!

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** [redacted] **On Behalf Of** Jason Hunt  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 04, 2013 10:29 AM  
**To:** Jason Hunt  
**Subject:** Accepting New Position

B6

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I'm writing to inform you that my last day at the Syrian American Council will be Friday, December 6. [redacted]

[redacted]

Working for SAC has been a wonderful experience, and I am deeply grateful for having had the opportunity to work with such passionate and committed people, and to work for such a great cause.

I look forward to keeping in touch with you. Should you need to contact me after December 6, my personal email is [redacted] and my cell phone number is [redacted]. My new work email will be [redacted]

I look forward to working with you in my new position as we continue to work together for peace, democracy, and respect for human rights in Syria.

Sincerely,

Jason T. Hunt

Advocacy and Projects Officer,

Syrian American Council (SAC), Capitol Hill  
20 F Street NW, Washington D.C. 20001

Telephone:

Mobile:

[www.sacouncil.com](http://www.sacouncil.com)

B6

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**Bullard, Avery D**

**From:** Alzayat, Wa'el N  
**Sent:** Friday, December 06, 2013 7:28 PM  
**To:** NEA-Syria-DL; [REDACTED] Ford, Robert S  
**Subject:** Fw: SAC Recognizes Mother Agnes's Freedom of Speech

B6

RELEASE IN  
PART B6

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Archie Bolster,  
Senior Reviewer

**From:** Syrian American Council (SAC) [mailto:info@sacouncil.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, December 06, 2013 07:00 PM  
**To:** NEA-Syria-DL  
**Subject:** SAC Recognizes Mother Agnes's Freedom of Speech

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

December 6, 2013

## SAC Recognizes Mother Agnes's Freedom of Speech

*Mother Agnes is free to defend the Assad regime and lie about the reality in Syria, but SAC calls upon truth-seeking Americans to challenge the distorted narrative she presents*

**Washington, DC --** The Syrian American Council (SAC) defends the right of all people everywhere to speak freely—including Mother Agnes Mariam. However, SAC condemns the organizations and venues which host and promote her events for their role in granting legitimacy to someone whose idea of the "truth" has been repeatedly disproven.

Read more about Mother Agnes Mariam de la Croix here:

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/dec/05/catholic-nun-mother-agnes-syria-civil-war>

"Mother Agnes is welcome to think and say what she likes, as absurd as some of the things she says may be," said SAC Board Member Ranya Sabbagh. "That's freedom of speech. That's one of the reasons why my family came to the United States from Syria—for the freedoms afforded to everyone here. We just wish the organizations promoting her would stop treating what she says as fact. The UN and other impartial humanitarian organizations have disproven many of her claims; there's a difference between freedom of speech and freedom to blatantly lie to people."

Regardless whether Mother Agnes has direct ties to the Assad regime, her version of "reality" in Syria defends a regime that has one of the worst free speech records in the world. Syria was ranked 176 out of 179 on the freedom of information monitoring group Reporters Without Borders' "Press Freedom Index" for 2013, only a slight decrease from its pre-Arab Spring ranking of 173. This ranking puts Syria just better than North Korea and just worse than Somalia and Iran in terms

of freedom of the press, a good indicator of freedom of speech more generally.

Mother Agnes has in the past argued that anyone critical of her is attempting to restrict her freedom of speech.

"SAC contends that Mother Agnes herself does not support freedom of speech because she has not allowed those of differing viewpoints to participate or ask questions at her events," said SAC Vice President Mirna Barq. "In some cases, the freedom of attendees to question her assertions has been suppressed by force. It is deeply ironic that she would use the freedom of speech argument against her critics, when both she and the regime she defends have such atrocious records on freedom of speech."

###


[For more information, contact: Kenan Rahmani; 202-507-6318, krahmani@sacouncil.com].

#### **About Syrian American Council**

Founded in 2005 in Burr Ridge Illinois, the Syrian American Council is the largest Syrian-American community organization in the United States. It serves to amplify the voice of the Syrian-American Community. SAC includes members from all segments of Syrian society, and has 22 chapters nationwide with thousands of supporters. It is an organization devoted to community organizing, awareness-raising, youth empowerment, media outreach, advocacy, and support for Syrians seeking to build a free and democratic Syria.

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This email was sent to nea-syria-dl@state.gov by [info@sacouncil.com](mailto:info@sacouncil.com) |  
[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).  
Syrian American Council | 20 F St., NW | Washington | DC | 20001

**Bullard, Avery D**

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, December 06, 2013 4:20 PM  
**To:** Mohammed A Ghanem  
**Cc:** Ford, Robert S; Roman, Lisa; Eussen, Matthew; Kandil, Khulood; Alzayat, Wa'el N  
**Subject:** Re: Translation and Video footage of Ma'aloula Nuns

B6

RELEASE IN PART  
B6

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Archie Bolster, Senior  
Reviewer

Thank you Mohammed!!! Good to hear it:)

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 6, 2013, at 2:20 PM, Mohammed A Ghanem [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear Mr. Ford

About an hour ago AJ Arabic aired video footage of the 13 Ma'aloula nuns. We translated the video quickly and are passing along to media contacts. In the meantime, I wanted you to be aware of it. Translation and link are below.

Sincerely  
Mohammed

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Iy3zdbKXfDM>

Al Jazeera

Announcer: AlJazeera has obtained video footage of the nuns from Saint Thecla Convent (Mar Taqla) in Ma'aloula. The nuns

confirm they are safe and that they left the convent because of intense shelling that Maloula was

witnessing. The nuns are expecting to be released in 2 days. AJ has not verified the date of the footage,

but we believe it was shot yesterday.

Nun 1: We would like to reassure the whole world, because we know many are concerned about us and it's

heartening that we are still in people's thoughts. As for seeking refuge from the convent, we were told

that intense shelling might happen, and that we might be hurt in the shelling, so to ensure our safety,

we had to evacuate the convent. So we left and there was shelling, but we pressed



ahead, may God

protect everyone.

Videographer: Was anyone injured? Was there fighting during your escape? Or where you've been

staying since?

Nun 1: Yes. When we first set out, there was very much intense shelling, but the cars sped up and drove

very fast. We made a quick trip to the safe house we were brought to. We can say nothing but "may God

reward them greatly for the services they provided us." We would like to thank those they sent over to

host us and give us food, drink, medical attention, and comfortable surroundings.

Videographer: Some reports indicated you were in a cave or out on the street, or those who evacuated

you hurt you, or that one of the nuns was killed.

Nun1: No, no, no. This didn't happen at all. You can count us here: 13 nuns and 3 civilians. We're still

here, we're staying in a villa. A very beautiful villa. We came here, but we're leaving in 2 days (laughter).

Nun2: We want shelling of holy places to stop—of churches, mosques, holy sites. And for peace to take

place. We left due to the heavy shelling. The people (who evacuated us) were compassionate;

they evacuated us and took special care of us. We are very pleased with them. They provided us with

everything we need

Videographer: Would you like to say anything to the people who may be concerned about you, or your

relatives? (Inaudible) Would you like to send a message to people waiting for you?

Nun3: I'd like to tell my family that in 2 days we will be released and that we're OK.



We're fine.

Videographer: Can we say that you're abducted/held hostage?

Nun3: No, they just moved us to a safe house because of the shelling.

Videographer: So now you're safe from shelling?

Nuns: Yes

--

Mohammed Alaa Ghanem

Senior Political Adviser, Government Relations Director, and Strategist

Syrian American Council (SAC), Capitol Hill

20 F Street NW, Washington D.C. 20001

Telephone:

Fax: 202-507-6101

<http://www.sacouncil.com/>

B6

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What about the anti-semitic stuff?

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Mohammed Alaa Ghanem [redacted]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 17, 2014 6:01 PM

B6

**To:** Kandil, Khulood  
**Subject:** Re: any luck?

Here's his website. I couldn't find anything either about suicide bombings.

<http://www.nabulsi.com/en/>

I did an online search about the reporter and found out he jumped on the bandwagon of 'Park 51', or "Ground-Zero Mosque" as it was called by Fox News. His reporting seems sensational

<http://nypost.com/2010/08/21/ground-zero-imam-on-mideast-tour-to-make-islam-americanized/>  
<http://nypost.com/2010/08/19/iran-cash-might-fund-ground-zero-mosque/>  
<http://nypost.com/2010/08/18/gov-to-meet-on-mosque-move/>  
<http://nypost.com/2010/08/10/feds-funding-ground-zero-imams-mideast-trip/>

Best  
Mohammed

On Fri, Jan 17, 2014 at 5:42 PM, Kandil, Khulood <[KandilK@state.gov](mailto:KandilK@state.gov)> wrote:

Thanks. Did anyone at SAC do a search online for these comments? The reporter claims they're "still on his website" but I couldn't find them.

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

**Bullard, Avery D**

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** Alzayat, Wa'el N  
**Subject:** Wednesday, December 04, 2013 2:09 PM  
Kandil, Khulood  
RE: Accepting New Position

**REVIEW AUTHORITY:** Archie  
Bolster, Senior Reviewer

Thanks, find out what he will be doing with the SOC office.

How are we doing on scheduling some meetings with diaspora before I leave?

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Kandil, Khulood  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 04, 2013 10:57 AM  
**To:** Alzayat, Wa'el N  
**Subject:** FW: Accepting New Position

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** [REDACTED] **On Behalf Of** Jason Hunt  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 04, 2013 10:29 AM  
**To:** Jason Hunt  
**Subject:** Accepting New Position

B6

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I'm writing to inform you that my last day at the Syrian American Council will be Friday, December 6. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Working for SAC has been a wonderful experience, and I am deeply grateful for having had the opportunity to work with such passionate and committed people, and to work for such a great cause.

I look forward to keeping in touch with you. Should you need to contact me after December 6, my personal email is [REDACTED] and my cell phone number is [REDACTED] My new work email will be [REDACTED]

B6

I look forward to working with you in my new position as we continue to work together for peace, democracy, and respect for human rights in Syria.

Sincerely,

**Jason T. Hunt**

Advocacy and Projects Officer,  
Syrian American Council (SAC), Capitol Hill  
20 F Street NW, Washington D.C. 20001  
Telephone: [REDACTED]  
Mobile: [REDACTED]  
[www.sacouncil.com](http://www.sacouncil.com)

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**Bullard, Avery D**

**From:** Ford, Robert S  
**Sent:** **RELEASE IN PART B6** Wednesday, December 04, 2013 8:23 AM  
**To:** Mohammed A Ghanem  
**Cc:** Kandil, Khulood; Alzayat, Wa'el N; Eussen, Matthew; Roman, Lisa  
**Subject:** RE: Ma'aloula Nuns in Christian Safe House; Revolutionaries Wounded to Save Them

**REVIEW AUTHORITY:** Archie Bolster, Senior Reviewer

Thank you, Mohammed – please do forward the photograph and any evidence you have about the regime's manipulation; it would be useful for us to use as needed.

Regards - Robert

**From:** [REDACTED] **On Behalf Of** Mohammed A Ghanem  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 03, 2013 9:12 PM  
**To:** Ford, Robert S  
**Cc:** Kandil, Khulood; Alzayat, Wa'el N; Eussen, Matthew; Roman, Lisa  
**Subject:** Ma'aloula Nuns in Christian Safe House; Revolutionaries Wounded to Save Them

B6

Ambassador Ford

Greetings

[REDACTED] sent me the below news report in Arabic. I thought it's an important report so I translated it. I'm sharing the translation with you for your information.

Sincerely  
Mohammed

P.S. Today, a photo of a bonfire from last September lit to celebrate the Feast of the Cross/Holy Cross Day in Ma'aloula, a historic Christian town in Syria, was used by the regime's propaganda machine to claim that Ma'aloula was being burned down by Islamists. We were able to immediately uncover the original photo from the September celebration. I would be happy to forward if need be. Since it lost Ma'aloula, the regime has been making incessant attempts to spawn more sectarian conflict.

### **Ma'aloula Nuns in Christian Safe House; Revolutionaries Wounded to Save Them**

General Commission of the Syrian Revolution

Media office  
Exclusive for All4Syria

Multiple reports received from activist indicate with near certainty that the revolutionaries in Ma'aloula have successfully evacuated the 12 nuns from Saint Thecla Convent (Mar Taqla) in Ma'aloula to a safe house that belongs to a Christian family in one of the villages in al-Qalamoun.

Earlier today, activists dismissed as false claims by Syrian state media and other pro-regime news

outlets that the nuns had been abducted and that their lives were in danger.

The activists added that credible reports assert that the revolutionaries were in fact protecting the nuns and had been attempting to evacuate them and the abbess, Mother Superior Pelagia Sayaf, to a safer place but that sniper fire and heavy shelling had impeded their effort (before they were finally able to successfully execute it)

The reports suggest that a number of FSA and Jabhat al-Nusra fighters were wounded as they were evacuating the nuns.

Opposition forces have regained control of strategic Ma'aloula following intense fighting with regime forces that lasted for three days. Dozens of regime soldiers have been killed and a number of tanks and armored vehicles have been destroyed, hence the heavy rocket and artillery barrages by Regiment 14 in al-Qutaifa.

شركاء كلنا

- السورية للثورة العامة الهيئة  
شركاء كلنا لصالح الإعلام المکتب

دير راهبات نقل أمنوا الثوار أن تؤكد , القلمون في ناشطين من مؤكدة شبه أنباء تتوارد . القلمون بلدات إحدى في مسيحية لعائلة آمن منزل إلى معلولا في عشر الاثنتي امارتقل .

المتضامنة الإعلامية الجهات وبعض , النظام اعلام وسائل رددته ما اليوم نفوا الناشطون وكان حياتهن وتهديد معلولا في مارتقلا دير لراهبات الثوار احتجاز حول معه .

الأم الدير رئيس اجلاء ويحاولون الراهبات يحمون كانوا الثوار أن كدتؤ أخبارا الناشطون ونقل , معلولا من واخراجهن , أمنا أكثر مكان إلى الدير من معها اللواتي والراهبات سلاف بيلاجيا ذلك من يمنعهم كان المدينة على العنيف والقصف النظام جيش قناصة نيران ولكن .

انقاذ محاولتهم أثناء جرحوا النصره وجبهة الحر الجيش يقاتل من عددا أن الناشطون وقال الراهبات .

مع طاحنة معارك بعد الاسـتراتيجية معلولا بلدة على السيطرة استعادوا القلمون ثوار وكان من عدد وتدمير , النظام قوات من العشرات مقتل عن وأسفرت , أيام 3 استمرت النظام قوات وراجمات بالمدفعية بقصفها البلدة سكان من النظام تقم فان , النظام ومدركات دبابات القطيفة مدينة في 14 الفوج من الصواريخ .

--  
Mohammed Alaa Ghanem

Senior Political Adviser, Government Relations Director, and Strategist  
Syrian American Council (SAC), Capitol Hill  
20 F Street NW, Washington D.C. 20001  
Telephone: [REDACTED]  
Fax: 202-507-6101  
<http://www.sacouncil.com/>

B6

UNCLASSIFIED U.S. Department of State Case No. F-2014-03176 Doc No. C05874597 Date: 05/03/2016

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**Bullard, Avery D**

---

**From:** Kandil, Khulood  
**Sent:** Friday, November 08, 2013 3:58 PM  
**To:** RELEASE IN  
PART B5,B6 Kandil, Khulood; Wong, Megan A  
**Cc:** NEA-Syria-DL  
**Subject:** RE: Desk's suggested Invites to ceremony for HRDA Winner Hanadi Zahlout

**REVIEW AUTHORITY:**  
Archie Bolster, Senior  
Reviewer

Megan,

Info below.

Khulood M. Kandil  
Syria Desk Officer

desk  
cell  
kandilk@state.gov

B6

Privacy/PII  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Kandil, Khulood  
**Sent:** Friday, November 08, 2013 2:17 PM  
**To:** Wong, Megan A  
**Cc:** NEA-Syria-DL  
**Subject:** RE: Desk's suggested Invites to ceremony for HRDA Winner Hanadi Zahlout

Checking.

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Wong, Megan A  
**Sent:** Friday, November 08, 2013 1:40 PM  
**To:** Kandil, Khulood  
**Cc:** NEA-Syria-DL  
**Subject:** Desk's suggested Invites to ceremony for HRDA Winner Hanadi Zahlout

Hi Khulood,

D staff says they need organizations for all of the people invited to the ceremony (or affiliations, if they are relatives or friends). Just so DB knows who he is addressing.



Can you please provide for the highlighted folks?

Thanks!

Megan

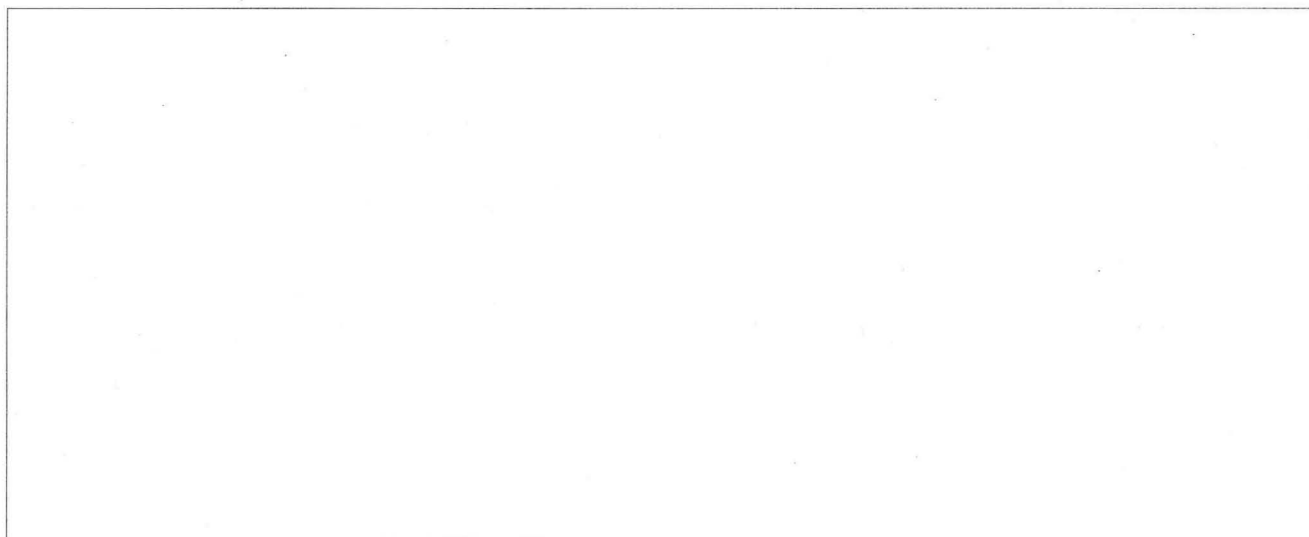
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** McCandless, Daniel C  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 05, 2013 5:48 PM  
**To:** Wong, Megan A  
**Cc:** NEA-Syria-DL; Shechtman, Kim  
**Subject:** RE: Invites to ceremony for HRDA Winner Hanadi Zahlout

Hi Megan,

Contacts below – I'm sorry, I couldn't find two of them in our database:



B5  
B6

Dan McCandless  
U.S. Department of State  
Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs  
Syria Desk Officer  
Office:   
BlackBerry:

B6  
B6

---

**From:** Wong, Megan A  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 05, 2013 11:19 AM  
**To:** McCandless, Daniel C  
**Cc:** NEA-Syria-DL; Shechtman, Kim  
**Subject:** RE: Invites to ceremony for HRDA Winner Hanadi Zahlout

Hi Dan or others on the desk,

UNCLASSIFIED U.S. Department of State Case No. F-2014-03176 Doc No. C05874593 Date: 05/03/2016

Can someone please pass me the email addresses for folks that the desk suggested we invite to the HR Defender Award ceremony, honoring Hanadi Zahlout?

We'd like to send those out today, if at all possible once the time is firmed up with the Treaty Room.

Thanks!  
Megan

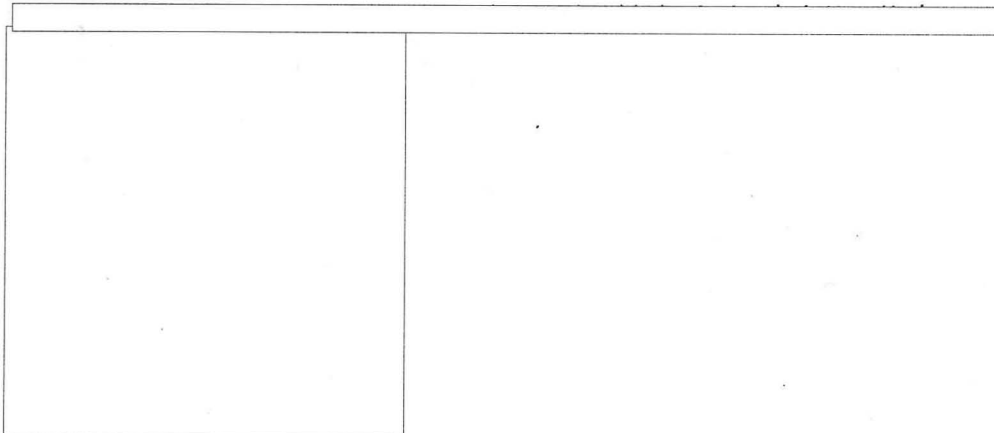
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Groeblacher, Julia M  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 03, 2013 12:31 PM  
**To:** McCandless, Daniel C  
**Subject:** RE: Ceremony for HRDA Winner Hanadi Zahlout

Man I'd love to be back!

So I'd pull the DC-based contact list from the shared drive, under Opposition Contacts. But must-invites:



B5  
B6

Let me know what sort of numbers you're looking at, and I can provide more names

Also – when's this happening? Can I come...?

---

**From:** McCandless, Daniel C  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 02, 2013 11:50 AM  
**To:** Groeblacher, Julia M  
**Subject:** FW: Ceremony for HRDA Winner Hanadi Zahlout

Ms. Groeblacher –

Sorry to bug ya!

B5

Syria Desk wants you back...

Dan McCandless  
U.S. Department of State

UNCLASSIFIED U.S. Department of State Case No. F-2014-03176 Doc No. C05874593 Date: 05/03/2016

Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs  
Syria Desk Officer  
Office: [REDACTED]  
BlackBerry: [REDACTED]

B6  
B6

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Creedon, Sarah R  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 02, 2013 11:48 AM  
**To:** McCandless, Daniel C; Shechtman, Kim; Mahanty, Daniel R; Wong, Megan A; Wisehart, Benton P  
**Cc:** Ballard, Kyle M; Roman, Lisa; Alzayat, Wa'el N; Munir, Junaid Jay; Eussen, Matthew  
**Subject:** RE: Ceremony for HRDA Winner Hanadi Zahlout

Thank you Dan, that makes sense to us too. Adding Benton from our program shop who is the key POC on the funding, and Megan Wong who will be lead POC on this event for DRL/NEA as I am transferring over to Paris.

In addition to the visa/travel/room/DB logistics, I would also suggest starting to think of DC invites, Julia had some good ideas on diaspora contacts to include.

Best,  
Sarah

---

**From:** McCandless, Daniel C  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 02, 2013 11:12 AM  
**To:** Shechtman, Kim; Creedon, Sarah R; Mahanty, Daniel R  
**Cc:** Ballard, Kyle M; Roman, Lisa; Alzayat, Wa'el N; Munir, Junaid Jay; Eussen, Matthew  
**Subject:** Ceremony for HRDA Winner Hanadi Zahlout

DRL Colleagues,

B5

B5

Best,  
Dan

Dan McCandless  
U.S. Department of State  
Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs  
Syria Desk Officer  
Office: [REDACTED]  
BlackBerry: [REDACTED]

B6  
B6

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

**Bullard, Avery D**

**From:** Kandil, Khulood  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 31, 2013 3:12 PM  
**To:** 'Mohammed A Ghanem'  
**Subject:** RE: Soc del

Thank you.

RELEASE IN  
PART B6

REVIEW AUTHORITY:  
Archie Bolster, Senior  
Reviewer

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

**From:** [REDACTED] **On Behalf Of** Mohammed A Ghanem  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 31, 2013 3:01 PM  
**To:** Kandil, Khulood  
**Subject:** Re: Soc del

B6

Hi Khlood

It's not a SOC delegation as in a delegation from the Syrian Opposition Coalition (National Coalition of Opposition and Revolutionary Forces) per se. It's [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. See bios below. They have engagements in NY, PA, and NJ. As for DC, they will be here Nov 05 and 06. They are leaving Nov 06 at 2:00 PM.

The are being hosted by the Syrian American Council and the Syrian Center for Political and Strategic Studies. They would be interested in a high-level meeting with DoS if possible. I also included my bio below just in case.

All best  
Mohammed

B6

B6



B6

B6

On Thu, Oct 31, 2013 at 1:55 PM, Kandil, Khulood <[KandilK@state.gov](mailto:KandilK@state.gov)> wrote:  
What dates will they be in town?

--

Mohammed Alaa Ghanem

Senior Political Adviser, Government Relations Director, and Strategist

Syrian American Council (SAC), Capitol Hill

20 F Street NW, Washington D.C. 20001

Telephone: 202-507-6318

Fax: 202-507-6101

Mobile:

<http://www.sacouncil.com/>

B6

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**Bullard, Avery D.**

**From:** [redacted] on behalf of Mohammed A Ghanem  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 30, 2013 6:08 PM  
**To:** Kandil, Khulood  
**Cc:** Jason Hunt; Kenan Rahmani  
**Subject:** Re: Glad to meet you yesterday

RELEASE IN  
PART B5,B6

REVIEW AUTHORITY:  
Archie Bolster, Senior  
Reviewer

B6

This also just came out. I now Qusai. His name is misspelled in the piece.

<https://now.mmedia.me/lb/en/reportsfeatures/518281-the-flying-nun-and-moadamiyah>

On Wed, Oct 30, 2013 at 5:28 PM, Mohammed A Ghanem <m.ghanem@sacouncil.com> wrote:  
I'm so sorry I forwarded you the wrong link. Here's the PR on Agnus. Profuse apologies

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?shva=1#inbox/1420b434ba62429e>

On Wed, Oct 30, 2013 at 4:43 PM, Mohammed A Ghanem [redacted] wrote:  
Thanks for your response, Khlood and thanks for the helpful recommendations. We're hosting George Sabra, president of SNC, in town as of this weekend until Nov 06. I will run these names by him to see who he would recommend the most. [redacted] is a friend. I will also reach out to him.

Here's a PR we put out on [redacted] I would ask you kindly to read and circulate.

[http://www.sacouncil.com/news/sac-news/avid-assad-supporter-\[redacted\]-on-u-s-propaganda-tour-to-promote-regime-lies/](http://www.sacouncil.com/news/sac-news/avid-assad-supporter-[redacted]-on-u-s-propaganda-tour-to-promote-regime-lies/)

We would like to meet with the MB delegate visiting town. Is it [redacted]?

I will be in PA/NY this weekend with the opposition delegates and we have a tight schedule Nov 05-06 in DC. We sure would love to break bread with you. Would Thursday or Friday work for you?

Many thanks  
Mohammed

On Wed, Oct 30, 2013 at 4:24 PM, Kandil, Khulood <KandilK@state.gov> wrote:

Dear Jason,

Thank you so much for this very detailed follow-up.

Sorry for taking so long to respond. I am usually not this flaky, but I'm just now digging my way out of emails I missed last week when I was out.

I also followed up on some of the items you flagged and here's what I came up with:

[REDACTED]

B5

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

4. Anyone from the Syrian Orthodox church.

5. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

On the implementing partner issue, please contact [REDACTED] at [REDACTED]. She'd be glad to speak with you.

B6

On [REDACTED] I checked and we are unable to provide information about our visa applicants' status due to privacy laws. If you are able to find out the status of her visa informally, we could have a discussion about [REDACTED] potential visit and what it means. Also, [REDACTED] speaking engagements, while we might not agree with their content, are protected speech (one thing that's great about America!).

B6

On a separate issue, [REDACTED] is visiting tomorrow (Thurs) and Friday. Would you guys have any interest in meeting with him?

B6

Also, I'd like to invite you all to lunch at the State Department official dining room sometime next week. Are you available?

Thank you,

Khulood M. Kandil

Syria Desk Officer

[redacted] desk

[redacted] cell

[kandilk@state.gov](mailto:kandilk@state.gov)

B6

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

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**From:** [redacted] **On Behalf Of** Jason Hunt  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 22, 2013 5:33 PM  
**To:** Kandil, Khulood  
**Cc:** Kenan Rahmani; Mohammed A. Ghanem

B6

**Subject:** Glad to meet you yesterday

Khulood,

It was nice to meet you yesterday, and we look forward to working with you in the future. In our meeting, we discussed a number of things.

First, I've attached a document with additional information about [redacted]

Second the head of [redacted] who you talked with briefly on Mohammed's cell phone, is [redacted]  
[redacted] His number is [redacted]



Third, the contact at

B6

You can see

some information about what she teaches here.

Here is the Foreign Policy article Mohammed mentioned that outlines the importance of supporting local councils.

Here is the blog post by Fred Hof regarding US non-recognition of the Interim Government that Mohammed mentioned.

Again, we're glad to see you join the Syria desk. Feel free to contact us as frequently as is useful for you. We would welcome a regular meeting, if you believe that would be productive.

Best,

Jason T. Hunt

Advocacy and Projects Officer,

Syrian American Council (SAC), Capitol Hill  
20 F Street NW, Washington D.C. 20001  
Telephone:   
Mobile:   
[www.sacouncil.com](http://www.sacouncil.com)

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--  
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**Bullard, Avery D**

**From:** RELEASE IN PART B6  
**Sent:** Kandil, Khulood  
**To:** Wednesday, October 30, 2013 4:19 PM  
**Cc:** 'HASyria\_ELC'; 'HASyria\_RM'; 'HASyria\_DMP'  
**Subject:** Alzayat, Wa'el N; Escrogima, Ana A  
RE: Implementing Partner

**REVIEW AUTHORITY:** Archie Bolster,  
Senior Reviewer

Thank you and sorry for missing your earlier message.

Khulood M. Kandil  
Syria Desk Officer  
desk  
cell  
[kandilk@state.gov](mailto:kandilk@state.gov)

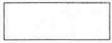
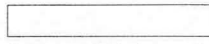
B6

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

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**From:** HASyria\_ELC [[mailto:HASyria\\_ELC@ofda.gov](mailto:HASyria_ELC@ofda.gov)]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 30, 2013 4:18 PM  
**To:** Kandil, Khulood; HASyria\_RM; HASyria\_DMP  
**Cc:** Alzayat, Wa'el N; Escrogima, Ana A  
**Subject:** Re: Implementing Partner

Resending as per your last message.

  
  
External Liaison Coordinator  
OFDA Syria RMT

\*Sent from my BlackBerry

---

**From:** HASyria\_ELC  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 22, 2013 11:22 AM Eastern Standard Time  
**To:** Kandil, Khulood <[Kandilk@state.gov](mailto:Kandilk@state.gov)>; HASyria\_RM; HASyria\_DMP  
**Cc:** Alzayat, Wa'el N <[alzayatwn@state.gov](mailto:alzayatwn@state.gov)>; Escrogima, Ana A <[EscrogimaAA@state.gov](mailto:EscrogimaAA@state.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Implementing Partner

Hi Khulood,  
I'm happy to chat or meet with your contact. Please feel free to connect us via email.  
Thanks,

[redacted]  
*External Liaison Coordinator*  
*Syria Response Management Team*  
*USAID/OFDA*  
*HASyria\_ELC@ofda.gov*

B6

---

**From:** Kandil, Khulood [Kandilk@state.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 21, 2013 5:27 PM  
**To:** HASyria\_RM; HASyria\_DMP; HASyria\_ELC  
**Cc:** Alzayat, Wa'el N; Escrogima, Ana A  
**Subject:** FW: Implementing Partner

[redacted]

Would one of you be willing to speak to my contact at the Syrian American Council (SAC) about the process involved in becoming an implementing partner?

Thank you,

Khulood M. Kandil  
Syria Desk Officer  
[redacted]  
kandilk@state.gov

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Narayanan, Sushil  
**Sent:** Monday, October 21, 2013 5:22 PM  
**To:** Kandil, Khulood  
**Cc:** PRM-ANE Syria; PRM-ECA Turkey  
**Subject:** RE: Implementing Partner

Khulood,

I would suggest (in DC) – the Syria Task Force. [redacted] (HASyria\_RM@ofda.gov) is Response Manager or [redacted] (HASyria\_DMP@ofda.gov) or [redacted] (HASyria\_ELC@ofda.gov) would also be good contacts. My Turkey colleagues may have suggestions if they want contacts in Turkey.

B6

Best,  
Sushil

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.



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**From:** Kandil, Khulood

**Sent:** Monday, October 21, 2013 5:14 PM

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Cc:** NEA-Syria-DL; PRM-ANE Syria; Flannes, Matthew W; Angha, Negah; Kiamie III, Charles E

**Subject:** Implementing Partner

B6

CSO Colleagues,

I just had a meeting with the Syrian American Council (SAC) and they shared with me that they are thinking of establishing an office in southern Turkey to act as an implementing partner delivering humanitarian aid, etc. across the border. Would someone from your office be willing to meet with them to discuss since it's more your lane?

Thank you,

Khulood M. Kandil

Syria Desk Officer

[REDACTED]

[kandilk@state.gov](mailto:kandilk@state.gov)

SBU

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

**Bullard, Avery D**

---

**From:** [redacted] on behalf of Mohammed A Ghanem  
**Sent:** RELEASE IN PART B6 Wednesday, October 23, 2013 1:25 PM  
**To:** Kandil, Khulood  
**Cc:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** Re: Glad to meet you yesterday

B6

**REVIEW AUTHORITY:**  
Archie Bolster, Senior  
Reviewer

Sure. No problem. We will talk when you're back. Best, Mohammed

On Wed, Oct 23, 2013 at 12:53 PM, Kandil, Khulood <[KandilK@state.gov](mailto:KandilK@state.gov)> wrote:  
Thank you!

I also have some answers for you on stuff we talked about.

I'm out this week. Is it okay if I respond on Monday?

Khulood

---

**From:** Jason Hunt [mailto:[redacted]]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 22, 2013 05:33 PM  
**To:** Kandil, Khulood  
**Cc:** Kenan Rahmani [redacted]; Mohammed A. Ghanem <[redacted]>  
**Subject:** Glad to meet you yesterday

Khulood,

It was nice to meet you yesterday, and we look forward to working with you in the future. In our meeting, we discussed a number of things.

First, I've attached a document with additional information about [redacted]

Second [redacted] who you talked with briefly on Mohammed's cell phone, is [redacted]  
[redacted] His number is [redacted]

Third, the contact at [redacted]  
[redacted]

You can see some information about what she teaches [here](#).

[Here](#) is the Foreign Policy article Mohammed mentioned that outlines the importance of supporting local councils.

[Here](#) is the blog post by Fred Hof regarding US non-recognition of the Interim Government that Mohammed mentioned.

Again, we're glad to see you join the Syria desk. Feel free to contact us as frequently as is useful for you. We would welcome a regular meeting, if you believe that would be productive.

Best,

Jason T. Hunt

Advocacy and Projects Officer,  
Syrian American Council (SAC), Capitol Hill  
20 F Street NW, Washington D.C. 20001

Telephone: [REDACTED]

Mobile: [REDACTED]

[www.sacouncil.com](http://www.sacouncil.com)

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--  
Mohammed Alaa Ghanem

Senior Political Adviser, Government Relations Director, and Strategist

Syrian American Council (SAC), Capitol Hill

20 F Street NW, Washington D.C. 20001

Telephone: [REDACTED]

Fax: 202-507-6101

Mobile: [REDACTED]

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**Bullard, Avery D****RELEASE IN PART**  
B6**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Archie Bolster, Senior  
Reviewer****From:** [redacted] on behalf of Mohammed A Ghanem

B6

**Sent:** Friday, October 11, 2013 3:16 PM**To:** Alzayat, Wa'el N**Cc:** Kandil, Khulood**Subject:** Re: Sectarian Killings against Islamili Syrians**Attachments:** Disillusion in Syria's Armed Opposition.pdf

Wa'el and Khulood

Profuse apologies I'm late with my response. I was not feeling well.

We have a chapter in DC so I can bring dozens of people. However, CDS, of which SAC is a founding member, is planning a retreat for early November and there will be more people in town from SAC National. I'd like Khulood to meet with us then. In the meantime, Kenan, Jason and I would like to schedule a meeting for Monday Oct 21 in the afternoon. Would that work for you, Khulood?

Thanks and apologies again

Mohammed

P.S. Attached please find my latest report on Syria

On Mon, Oct 7, 2013 at 4:19 PM, Alzayat, Wa'el N <[alzayatwn@state.gov](mailto:alzayatwn@state.gov)> wrote:

Great, how about this Friday at 2 at Casey's? Feel free to bring others from SAC so Khulood can meet them. If we need a bigger space we can just do it in our office.

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

**From:** [redacted] **On Behalf Of** Mohammed A Ghanem**Sent:** Monday, October 07, 2013 3:46 PM**To:** Alzayat, Wa'el N**Cc:** Kandil, Khulood; Roman, Lisa; Eussen, Matthew; Escrogima, Ana A**Subject:** Re: Sectarian Killings against Islamili Syrians

Thanks for your email, Wa'el.

[redacted] number is a Syrian one. He's inside [redacted]

[redacted] is their representative in Turkey. But he goes in and out. His number is Turkish.



[redacted] He sure would be happy to meet with Lisa. I will give [redacted] a heads up [redacted] will call him.

B6

Thanks for the intro, Wa'el.

Khulood, welcome on board. We would love to meet. I'm available Thursday and Friday afternoon. Let me know if that would work for you.

All best

Mohammed

On Mon, Oct 7, 2013 at 3:35 PM, Alzayat, Wa'el N <[alzayatwn@state.gov](mailto:alzayatwn@state.gov)> wrote:

Mohammed,

Thanks for sending us this. Are the two activists listed in Turkey? Their numbers seem to be Turkish. If so, [redacted] is in Istanbul this month and can meet with them.

B6

Also, we haven't seen you in a while. If you can, I'd like to introduce you and other SAC members to our new outreach team member,

Khulood Kandil, who will be handling Diaspora outreach for us.

Let me know what works for you.

Best,

Wa'el Alzayat

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** [redacted] **On Behalf Of** Mohammed A Ghanem  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 05, 2013 5:48 AM  
**To:** Ford, Robert S  
**Cc:** Roman, Lisa; Eussen, Matthew; Alzayat, Wa'el N  
**Subject:** Sectarian Killings against Islamili Syrians

B6

Mr. Ford

Greetings

Ismailis are a minority in Syria, but they are a minority that has refused to be co-opted by the regime in return for self-rule and greater autonomy. Consequently, the Assad regime turned their guns on Syrian Ismailis like they turned their guns on Syrian Turkmen, another minority that refused to be co-opted. According to Ismaili activists, the charred bodies of a slain mom and her two daughters were found yesterday. The two little girls, Leen and Lailah, had been stabbed to death. The husband is still missing.

A bus with Ismaili passengers on Oct 02 was stopped by regime Shabiha and the trip was delayed for hours because the Ismaili passengers were removed from the bus and singled out for hours of searching and frisking.

Attached please find Arabic and English statements by Ismaili activists on the recent incidents. The statement has names and phone numbers of activists you can contact. Here's also a picture of the little girls.

[https://fbcdn-sphotos-g-a.akamaihd.net/hphotos-ak-prn2/1382965\\_523254524432498\\_887622176\\_n.jpg](https://fbcdn-sphotos-g-a.akamaihd.net/hphotos-ak-prn2/1382965_523254524432498_887622176_n.jpg)

Sincerely

Mohammed

--  
  
Mohammed Alaa Ghanem

Senior Political Adviser, Government Relations Director, and Strategist, M.A. in Peacebuilding and Conflict Transformation  
Syrian American Council (SAC), Capitol Hill  
20 F Street NW, Washington D.C. 20001

Telephone: [redacted]

Fax: 202-507-6101

Mobile: [redacted]

E-mail: [redacted]

<http://www.sacouncil.com/>

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**Bullard, Avery D**

---

**From:** Kandil, Khulood  
**Sent:** Friday, January 24, 2014 10:43 AM  
**To:** Eussen, Matthew; Escrogima, Ana A  
**Subject:** Re: Trip to Geneva

RELEASE IN PART  
B5,B6

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Archie  
Bolster, Senior Reviewer

Thanks

---

**From:** Eussen, Matthew  
**Sent:** Friday, January 24, 2014 10:39 AM Eastern Standard Time  
**To:** Escrogima, Ana A  
**Cc:** Kandil, Khulood  
**Subject:** FW: Trip to Geneva

Ana-

-Matt

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** [REDACTED] **On Behalf Of** Mohammed A Ghanem  
**Sent:** Friday, January 24, 2014 10:33 AM  
**To:** Eussen, Matthew  
**Subject:** Fwd: Trip to Geneva

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** **Mohammed A Ghanem** [REDACTED]  
**Date:** Thu, Jan 23, 2014 at 5:28 PM  
**Subject:** Trip to Geneva  
**To:** "Eussen, Matthew" <EussenM@state.gov>

Dear Matthew

I would like to thank you heartily for your help with the trip to Geneva.



Attached please find my travel reservation. I 'm scheduled to leave Tuesday Jan 28 at 5:30 PM. My application will be in the USCIS office in Dearborn at 8:00 AM tomorrow morning (not the lockbox to save time)

I spoke with the Swiss Embassy earlier today and explained the need to expedite the request. They asked for a "note" from the DoS to expedite the application and said they could give it back to me within a few days hopefully, hence the Tuesday booking. CSO has made such requests to help Syrian journalists go to Montreux. Attached please find an example. I don't need something like this exactly but I just need anything from you to help with the application. Would that be possible? I'm filling out the application now and will be lodging the application tomorrow morning as soon as I have the supporting letter from you.

I will be at USCIS at 12:45 PM tomorrow. I would be grateful if you could arrange a call with the filed office before I speak with the officer.

I'm so sorry for the lack of notice with this. The opposition made their decision to go literally a few days ago.

Heartfelt and sincere thanks again

Mohammed

--

Mohammed Alaa Ghanem

Senior Political Adviser, Government Relations Director, and Strategist

Syrian American Council (SAC), Capitol Hill

20 F Street NW, Washington D.C. 20001

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**Bullard, Avery D**

---

**From:** Kandil, Khulood  
**Sent:** Monday, January 20, 2014 10:08 PM  
**To:** Eussen, Matthew  
**Subject:** Matt Eussen Fw: Going to Montreux/Geneva

RELEASE IN PART  
B5,B6

REVIEW AUTHORITY:  
Archie Bolster, Senior  
Reviewer

Matt,

[REDACTED]

B6

[REDACTED]

B5

[REDACTED]

B5

Khulood

---

**From:** Mohammed A Ghanem [mailto:[REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 20, 2014 01:19 PM Eastern Standard Time  
**To:** Kandil, Khulood  
**Subject:** Going to Montreux/Geneva

B6

Dear Khulood

It seems that after all I have to ask for your help with this. The president of our organization has sent me a directive to go to Montreux/Geneva if the opposition goes there. I couldn't wiggle out. Would it be possible for the DoS to give me a letter of sponsorship to help me with

- immigration
- and the Swiss visa?

I would be there as one of the the delegates the Syrian American Council is sending to provide (civil society) support for the opposition/negotiations. Such a letter would ask USCIS to issue me an advance travel parole so I could be permitted reentry to the US. The basis of the letter would be DoS expressing support for issuing me the travel parole because I would be in Geneva to help the USG achieve her stated policy goals. I will be getting a similar letter from one of the Senators on the Homeland Security Committee to lend further support. A similar letter to the Swiss embassy can help with an expedited visa.



Sorry to bother you with this. I tried hard to keep this from happening and was content with the remote support I'm providing but I have to comply now. Let me know if you can help.

Thanks

Mohammed

--  
Mohammed Alaa Ghanem  
Senior Political Adviser, Government Relations Director, and Strategist  
Syrian American Council (SAC), Capitol Hill  
20 F Street NW, Washington D.C. 20001  
Telephone:   
Fax: 202-507-6101  
Mobile:   
<http://www.sacouncil.com/>

B6

**Founded in 2005 in Burr Ridge Illinois, the Syrian American Council is the largest Syrian-American community organization in the United States. It serves to amplify the voice of the Syrian-American Community. SAC includes members from all segments of Syrian society, and has over 20 chapters nationwide with thousands of supporters. It is an organization devoted to community organizing, awareness-raising, youth empowerment, media outreach, advocacy, and support for Syrians seeking to build a free and democratic Syria.**



**Bullard, Avery D**

---

**From:** Kandil, Khulood  
**Sent:** Monday, January 20, 2014 4:01 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: Going to Montreux/Geneva

RELEASE IN PART  
B6

B6

Would you forward to me please?

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Archie  
Bolster, Senior Reviewer

---

**From:** Mohammed A Ghanem [mailto:[REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 20, 2014 03:16 PM Eastern Standard Time  
**To:** Kandil, Khulood  
**Subject:** Re: Going to Montreux/Geneva

B6

Much appreciated. I certainly understand it's hard to get answers today. I will check with you tomorrow.

In other news, I'm not sure if you saw the statement by three major armed coalitions this morning. I met extensively over Skype with them yesterday. They just told me the input I provided them with helped a lot with the statement. Their statement is 100 times better than the interview Assad gave to AFP this morning.

Best  
Mohammed

On Mon, Jan 20, 2014 at 3:13 PM, Kandil, Khulood <KandilK@state.gov> wrote:  
Ok. Hard to get answers to these questions on a holiday. Can you check in with me/follow up tomorrow please?

My boss knows you are a very good contact and always help us so we will do what we can in the short time remaining.

---

**From:** Mohammed A Ghanem [mailto:[REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 20, 2014 02:07 PM Eastern Standard Time  
**To:** Kandil, Khulood  
**Subject:** Re: Going to Montreux/Geneva

B6

Much gratitude

On Mon, Jan 20, 2014 at 1:58 PM, Kandil, Khulood <KandilK@state.gov> wrote:  
I asked my boss

---

**From:** Mohammed A Ghanem [mailto:[REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 20, 2014 01:19 PM Eastern Standard Time  
**To:** Kandil, Khulood  
**Subject:** Going to Montreux/Geneva

B6

Dear Khulood

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Mohammed

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Mobile:   
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**Bullard, Avery D**

---

**From:** Kandil, Khulood  
**Sent:** Friday, January 17, 2014 8:49 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: Question

B6

Its the first time I've gotten such a request. Do you need it for US or Turkish or both?

**REVIEW AUTHORITY:**  
Archie Bolster, Senior  
Reviewer

---

**From:** Mohammed A Ghanem [mailto:[REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 17, 2014 08:41 PM Eastern Standard Time  
**To:** Kandil, Khulood  
**Subject:** Re: Question

**RELEASE IN  
PART B6**

Sorry I forgot to include this information. Yes to help with immigration/border control. Sjukran jazilan!

On Fri, Jan 17, 2014 at 8:37 PM, Kandil, Khulood <KandilK@state.gov> wrote:

Let me ask for some more information so I can better understand and convey to the right person: who would the letter be to and what would be the goal from it? Is it for immigration/border control? Shukran.

---

**From:** Mohammed A Ghanem [mailto:[REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 17, 2014 07:58 PM Eastern Standard Time  
**To:** Kandil, Khulood  
**Subject:** Question

As you know the Geneva conference isn't popular with a large number of Syrians due to reasons we've discussed before. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] many Syrians are putting the screws to oppositionists about Geneva. However, the president of my organization is now asking me to go there to provide whatever support I can if the opposition votes yes. If I really have to, I'd rather be there in my civil society capacity instead of being associated with the SOC (although this might not be an option if I'm officially requested to join the technical team in case of a positive vote).

[REDACTED], I prefer the former option to save myself some heat. So I was wondering if I could receive a letter of sponsorship from DoS similar to the one I asked you about today that endorses me as someone they would like to see there. Is this an option? I'd basically be there to help the US achieve its stated goals.

Thanks  
Mohammed

--  
Mohammed Alaa Ghanem  
Senior Political Adviser, Government Relations Director, and Strategist



Syrian American Council (SAC), Capitol Hill  
20 F Street NW, Washington D.C. 20001  
Telephone: 202-507-6318  
Fax: 202-507-6101  
Mobile:   
<http://www.sacouncil.com/>

B6

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**Mohammed Alaa Ghanem**  
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B6

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**Bullard, Avery D**

**From:** Kandil, Khulood  
**Sent:** Friday, January 17, 2014 5:34 PM  
**To:** Silverman, Lawrence R; Polaschik, Joan A  
**Subject:** DAS SILVERMAN & JOAN: INFO: Possible Press Issue

RELEASE IN  
PART B5,B6

**REVIEW AUTHORITY:** Archie  
Bolster, Senior Reviewer

DAS Silverman and Joan,

I wanted to alert you to an issue that NEA Press recently brought to our attention. Yesterday, they received an inquiry about Sheikh Nabulsi [redacted] to participate in a Syrian American Council (SAC) funded and organized speaking tour in the United States. Sheikh Nabulsi is an influential religious voice of moderation with a huge following in the entire Levant, not just Syria.

B5

The reporter from NY Post alleged that Sheikh Nabulsi has made anti-Semitic comments online and also incited and encouraged violence.

B5

Here is a link to the article the NY Post inquired about:

<http://www.frontpagemag.com/2014/dgreenfield/syrian-jihadist-sheikh-who-called-for-murder-of-jews-and-gays-gets-us-visa/>

B5

Khulood M. Kandil  
Syria Desk Officer  
[redacted] desk  
[redacted] cell  
[kandilk@state.gov](mailto:kandilk@state.gov)

B6

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

**Bullard, Avery D**

<b>From:</b>	Kandil, Khulood	<b>RELEASE IN PART B5,B6</b>
<b>Sent:</b>	Friday, January 17, 2014 5:10 PM	
<b>To:</b>	Cole, Niles E; Vasquez, Edgar J; Badawy, Dina A; Lieberman, Dean	
<b>Cc:</b>	NEA Press Officers DL; Larson, Jennifer A; Staples, David A (NEA/PPD); CAPRESSREQUESTS; NEA-Syria-DL	
<b>Subject:</b>	RE: Clearance requested for NY Post Inquiry RE: Visa for Sheikh al-Nabulsi	

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Archie  
Bolster, Senior Reviewer**

Here is the response SAC sent to NY Post (same reporter):

Mr. Earle,

Thank you for contacting us.

The Syrian American Council (SAC) has invited Dr. Al-Nabulsi to visit the US as a guest speaker at several events in order to share his message of hope and unity with regards to the dire situation in Syria. Dr. Nabulsi is well known for being an a-political religious leader. His mission has focused on promoting goodness, reconciliation, peace, and empathy with those who are in need. We are not aware of any of the controversial statements or comments you referred to and which we find contradictory to his life-long mission and teachings of peace, shared humanity, and self-purification. We will certainly investigate these claims. SAC, as an organization that strives for human rights, democracy, and justice for all in Syria unequivocally opposes and rejects any justification of or call to harming innocent people anywhere in the world regardless of their ethnic or religious background.

As for your question about the fundraising itself, all donations received during the scheduled events will be collected by the Dallas-based relief organization Shaam for Relief - a US registered nonprofit focusing on the human tragedy in Syria - to provide humanitarian and medical relief for the victims of Assad's brutal war, inside Syria and in Syrian refugee camps in Syria's neighboring country. I encourage you to visit that organization's website to learn more about its projects and campaigns.

Thank you.

Rashad Al-Dabbagh  
Communications Director  
SAC

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Cole, Niles E  
**Sent:** Friday, January 17, 2014 3:55 PM  
**To:** Kandil, Khulood; Vasquez, Edgar J; Badawy, Dina A; Lieberman, Dean  
**Cc:** NEA Press Officers DL; Larson, Jennifer A; Staples, David A (NEA/PPD); CAPRESSREQUESTS; NEA-Syria-DL  
**Subject:** RE: Clearance requested for NY Post Inquiry RE: Visa for Sheikh al-Nabulsi

Hi All,



B5  
B6

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Kandil, Khulood  
**Sent:** Friday, January 17, 2014 3:12 PM  
**To:** Cole, Niles E; Vasquez, Edgar J; Badawy, Dina A; Lieberman, Dean  
**Cc:** NEA Press Officers DL; Larson, Jennifer A; Staples, David A (NEA/PPD); CAPRESSREQUESTS; NEA-Syria-DL  
**Subject:** RE: Clearance requested for NY Post Inquiry RE: Visa for Sheikh al-Nabulsi



B5  
B6

Not sure if this worth including [redacted] but he was is also invited to participate in a USIP Interfaith Conference.

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

B5

---

**From:** Cole, Niles E  
**Sent:** Friday, January 17, 2014 2:50 PM  
**To:** Vasquez, Edgar J; Badawy, Dina A; Lieberman, Dean  
**Cc:** NEA Press Officers DL; Larson, Jennifer A; Staples, David A (NEA/PPD); CAPRESSREQUESTS; NEA-Syria-DL  
**Subject:** RE: Clearance requested for NY Post Inquiry RE: Visa for Sheikh al-Nabulsi



Hi All,

Regards,  
Niles Cole  
CA/P

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Vasquez, Edgar J  
**Sent:** Friday, January 17, 2014 2:18 PM  
**To:** Cole, Niles E; Badawy, Dina A; Lieberman, Dean  
**Cc:** NEA Press Officers DL; Larson, Jennifer A; Staples, David A (NEA/PPD); CAPRESSREQUESTS; NEA-Syria-DL  
**Subject:** RE: Clearance requested for NY Post Inquiry RE: Visa for Sheikh al-Nabulsi

Adding the desk.

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Cole, Niles E  
**Sent:** Friday, January 17, 2014 2:08 PM  
**To:** Vasquez, Edgar J; Badawy, Dina A; Lieberman, Dean  
**Cc:** NEA Press Officers DL; Larson, Jennifer A; Staples, David A (NEA/PPD); CAPRESSREQUESTS  
**Subject:** RE: Clearance requested for NY Post Inquiry RE: Visa for Sheikh al-Nabulsi

Hi Ed,

Regards,  
Niles

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Vasquez, Edgar J  
**Sent:** Friday, January 17, 2014 12:52 PM  
**To:** Cole, Niles E; Badawy, Dina A; Lieberman, Dean

B5

B5

B5  
B6

**Cc:** NEA Press Officers DL; Larson, Jennifer A; Staples, David A (NEA/PPD); CAPRESSREQUESTS

**Subject:** RE: Clearance requested for NY Post Inquiry RE: Visa for Sheikh al-Nabulsi

[Redacted]

B5  
B6

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Cole, Niles E

**Sent:** Friday, January 17, 2014 11:43 AM

**To:** Vasquez, Edgar J; Badawy, Dina A; Lieberman, Dean

**Cc:** NEA Press Officers DL; Larson, Jennifer A; Staples, David A (NEA/PPD); CAPRESSREQUESTS

**Subject:** RE: Clearance requested for NY Post Inquiry RE: Visa for Sheikh al-Nabulsi

Hi All,

[Redacted]

B5  
B6

Please advise.

Regards,  
Niles

SBU

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Vasquez, Edgar J

**Sent:** Friday, January 17, 2014 11:04 AM

**To:** Cole, Niles E; Badawy, Dina A; Lieberman, Dean

**Cc:** NEA Press Officers DL; Larson, Jennifer A; Staples, David A (NEA/PPD)

**Subject:** RE: Clearance requested for NY Post Inquiry RE: Visa for Sheikh al-Nabulsi

Dave,

[Redacted]

B5  
B6

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Cole, Niles E  
**Sent:** Friday, January 17, 2014 11:02 AM  
**To:** Badawy, Dina A; Vasquez, Edgar J; Lieberman, Dean  
**Cc:** NEA Press Officers DL; Larson, Jennifer A  
**Subject:** RE: Clearance requested for NY Post Inquiry RE: Visa for Sheikh al-Nabulsi

As I stated in an earlier email (which was to Dean), the reporter states he's already here. [REDACTED]

B5  
B6

[REDACTED]

B5  
B6

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---



**From:** Badawy, Dina A  
**Sent:** Friday, January 17, 2014 10:59 AM  
**To:** Vasquez, Edgar J; Cole, Niles E; Lieberman, Dean  
**Cc:** NEA Press Officers DL; Larson, Jennifer A  
**Subject:** RE: Clearance requested for NY Post Inquiry RE: Visa for Sheikh al-Nabulsi

[REDACTED]


SAC is already advertising the event.

B5

<https://www.facebook.com/sacouncil>

With Hardship Comes Ease  
إن مع العسر يسرا



A NIGHT WITH  
**DR. MOHAMMAD RATEB ALNABULSI**

Sunday, January 19, 2014, 6:00 PM (Sharp)  
at  
Orland Chateau Banquets  
14500 S La Grange Road  
Orland Park, IL 60462  
Cost \$25/Person  
For reservation, please send email to [nabulsitour@sacouncil.com](mailto:nabulsitour@sacouncil.com)

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Vasquez, Edgar J  
**Sent:** Friday, January 17, 2014 10:53 AM  
**To:** Cole, Niles E; Lieberman, Dean  
**Cc:** NEA Press Officers DL; Larson, Jennifer A  
**Subject:** RE: Clearance requested for NY Post Inquiry RE: Visa for Sheikh al-Nabulsi

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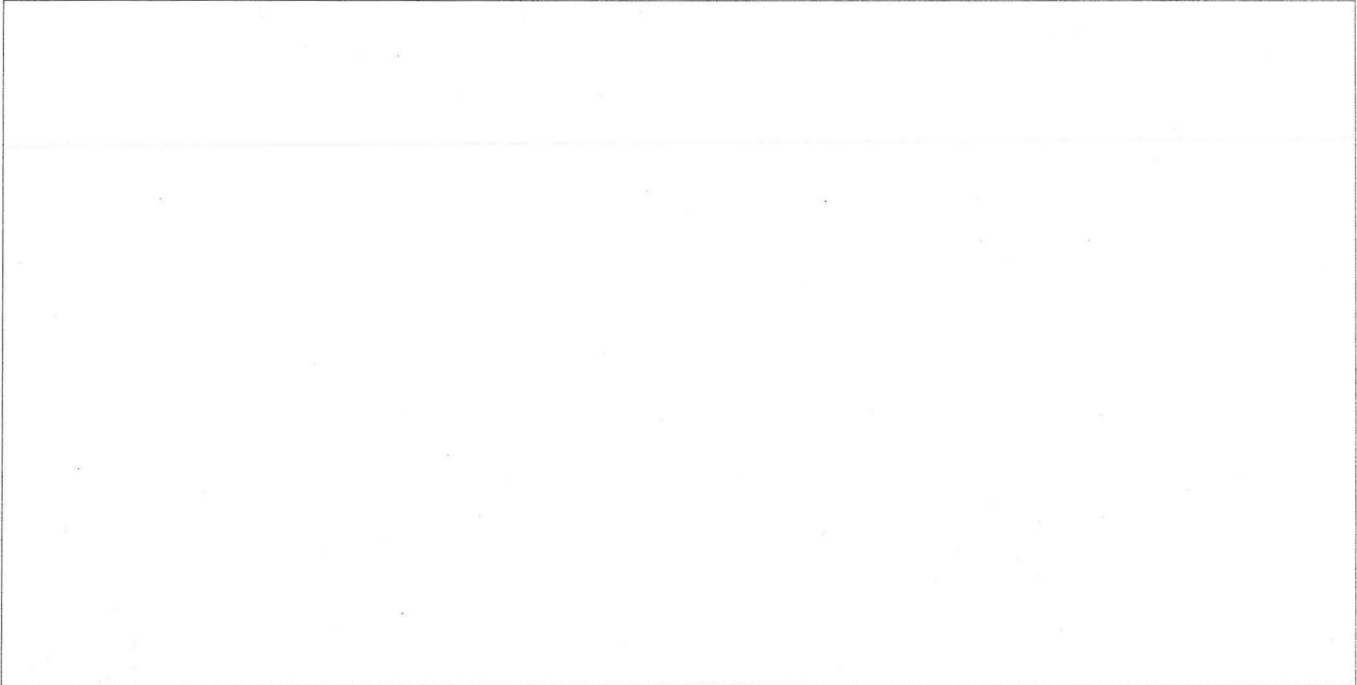
**From:** Cole, Niles E  
**Sent:** Friday, January 17, 2014 10:28 AM  
**To:** Lieberman, Dean  
**Cc:** NEA Press Officers DL; Vasquez, Edgar J; Larson, Jennifer A  
**Subject:** Clearance requested for NY Post Inquiry RE: Visa for Sheikh al-Nabulsi



Hi NEA Press Officers,

Yesterday, we received an inquiry from the NY Post related to this article:

<http://www.frontpagemag.com/2014/dgreenfield/syrian-jihadist-sheikh-who-called-for-murder-of-jews-and-gays-gets-us-visa/>



B5  
B6

Regards,  
Niles

-----Original Message-----

From: Earle, Geoff [mailto:GEarle@nypost.com]

Sent: Thursday, January 16, 2014 1:38 PM

To: CA-Press

Subject: Sheikh al-Nabulsi

Good afternoon.

I've placed a query to State's main press and ICE, but wanted to run it by consular affairs to try and move things along.

I'm looking for information on why the government approved the visa of Syrian national Sheik Mohammad Rateb al-Nabulsi, who's here on a speaking / fundraising tour.

Is there someone who could look into it for me?

Thanks,

Geoff Earle  
NY Post



B6

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**Bullard, Avery D**

**From:** Kandil, Khulood  
**Sent:** Friday, January 17, 2014 4:17 PM  
**To:** Cole, Niles E; Vasquez, Edgar J; Badawy, Dina A; Lieberman, Dean  
**Cc:** NEA Press Officers DL; Larson, Jennifer A; Staples, David A (NEA/PPD); CAPRESSREQUESTS; NEA-Syria-DL  
**Subject:** RE: Clearance requested for NY Post Inquiry RE: Visa for Sheikh al-Nabulsi

RELEASE IN PART  
B5,B6

I just spoke the convener (Syrian American Council) that is hosting and funding his travel. [REDACTED]

B5  
B6

Thank you,

Khulood M. Kandil  
Syria Desk Officer

[REDACTED] desk  
[REDACTED] cell  
kandilk@state.gov

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Archie Bolster, Senior  
Reviewer

B6

SBU  
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---

**From:** Cole, Niles E  
**Sent:** Friday, January 17, 2014 3:55 PM  
**To:** Kandil, Khulood; Vasquez, Edgar J; Badawy, Dina A; Lieberman, Dean  
**Cc:** NEA Press Officers DL; Larson, Jennifer A; Staples, David A (NEA/PPD); CAPRESSREQUESTS; NEA-Syria-DL  
**Subject:** RE: Clearance requested for NY Post Inquiry RE: Visa for Sheikh al-Nabulsi

Hi All,

B5  
B6

B5  
B6

SBU  
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**Subject:** RE: Clearance requested for NY Post Inquiry RE: Visa for Sheikh al-Nabulsi

B5  
B6

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**Subject:** RE: Clearance requested for NY Post Inquiry RE: Visa for Sheikh al-Nabulsi

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Niles Cole  
CA/P

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**Subject:** RE: Clearance requested for NY Post Inquiry RE: Visa for Sheikh al-Nabulsi

Adding the desk.

B5

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**Cc:** NEA Press Officers DL; Larson, Jennifer A; Staples, David A (NEA/PPD); CAPRESSREQUESTS  
**Subject:** RE: Clearance requested for NY Post Inquiry RE: Visa for Sheikh al-Nabulsi

Hi Ed,

B5  
B6

Regards,  
Niles

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**From:** Vasquez, Edgar J  
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**To:** Cole, Niles E; Badawy, Dina A; Lieberman, Dean  
**Cc:** NEA Press Officers DL; Larson, Jennifer A; Staples, David A (NEA/PPD); CAPRESSREQUESTS  
**Subject:** RE: Clearance requested for NY Post Inquiry RE: Visa for Sheikh al-Nabulsi

B5  
B6

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**From:** Cole, Niles E  
**Sent:** Friday, January 17, 2014 11:43 AM  
**To:** Vasquez, Edgar J; Badawy, Dina A; Lieberman, Dean  
**Cc:** NEA Press Officers DL; Larson, Jennifer A; Staples, David A (NEA/PPD); CAPRESSREQUESTS  
**Subject:** RE: Clearance requested for NY Post Inquiry RE: Visa for Sheikh al-Nabulsi

Hi All,

[Redacted]

B5  
B6

Please advise.

Regards,  
Niles

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**To:** Cole, Niles E; Badawy, Dina A; Lieberman, Dean  
**Cc:** NEA Press Officers DL; Larson, Jennifer A; Staples, David A (NEA/PPD)  
**Subject:** RE: Clearance requested for NY Post Inquiry RE: Visa for Sheikh al-Nabulsi

Dave,

[Redacted]

B5  
B6

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**To:** Badawy, Dina A; Vasquez, Edgar J; Lieberman, Dean  
**Cc:** NEA Press Officers DL; Larson, Jennifer A  
**Subject:** RE: Clearance requested for NY Post Inquiry RE: Visa for Sheikh al-Nabulsi

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[Redacted]

B5  
B6

[Redacted]

B5  
B6

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

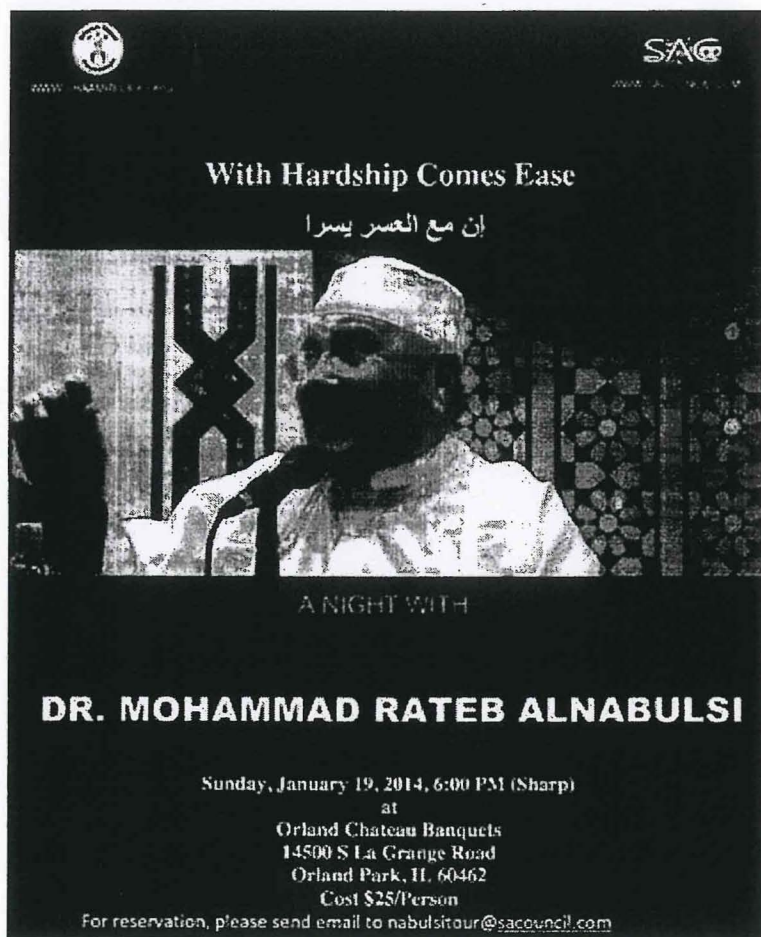
---

**From:** Badawy, Dina A  
**Sent:** Friday, January 17, 2014 10:59 AM  
**To:** Vasquez, Edgar J; Cole, Niles E; Lieberman, Dean  
**Cc:** NEA Press Officers DL; Larson, Jennifer A  
**Subject:** RE: Clearance requested for NY Post Inquiry RE: Visa for Sheikh al-Nabulsi

SAC is already advertising the event.

<https://www.facebook.com/sacouncil>

B5



The poster is for an event titled "With Hardship Comes Ease" (إن مع العسر يسرا). It features a black and white photograph of Dr. Mohammad Rateb AlNabulsi speaking into a microphone. The text on the poster includes the title in English and Arabic, the name of the speaker, the date and time (Sunday, January 19, 2014, 6:00 PM (Sharp)), the location (Orland Chateau Banquets, 14500 S La Grange Road, Orland Park, IL 60462), the cost (\$25/Person), and a reservation email address (nabulsitour@sacouncil.com). Logos for the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (AADC) and SAG are in the top corners.

With Hardship Comes Ease  
إن مع العسر يسرا

A NIGHT WITH  
**DR. MOHAMMAD RATEB ALNABULSI**

Sunday, January 19, 2014, 6:00 PM (Sharp)  
at  
Orland Chateau Banquets  
14500 S La Grange Road  
Orland Park, IL 60462  
Cost \$25/Person  
For reservation, please send email to [nabulsitour@sacouncil.com](mailto:nabulsitour@sacouncil.com)

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Vasquez, Edgar J  
**Sent:** Friday, January 17, 2014 10:53 AM  
**To:** Cole, Niles E; Lieberman, Dean  
**Cc:** NEA Press Officers DL; Larson, Jennifer A  
**Subject:** RE: Clearance requested for NY Post Inquiry RE: Visa for Sheikh al-Nabulsi

B5

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Cole, Niles E  
**Sent:** Friday, January 17, 2014 10:28 AM  
**To:** Lieberman, Dean  
**Cc:** NEA Press Officers DL; Vasquez, Edgar J; Larson, Jennifer A  
**Subject:** Clearance requested for NY Post Inquiry RE: Visa for Sheikh al-Nabulsi

Hi NEA Press Officers,

Yesterday, we received an inquiry from the NY Post related to this article:

<http://www.frontpagemag.com/2014/dgreenfield/syrian-jihadist-sheikh-who-called-for-murder-of-jews-and-gays-gets-us-visa/>

B5  
B6

Regards,  
Niles



-----Original Message-----

From: Earle, Geoff [<mailto:GEarle@nypost.com>]

Sent: Thursday, January 16, 2014 1:38 PM

To: CA-Press

Subject: Sheikh al-Nabulsi

Good afternoon.

I've placed a query to State's main press and ICE, but wanted to run it by consular affairs to try and move things along.

I'm looking for information on why the government approved the visa of Syrian national Sheik Mohammad Rateb al-Nabulsi, who's here on a speaking / fundraising tour.

Is there someone who could look into it for me?

Thanks,

Geoff Earle  
NY Post

B6

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

**Bullard, Avery D**

---

**From:** Eussen, Matthew  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 02, 2013 10:12 AM  
**To:** Koenig, Scott O (Amman)  
**Cc:** Alzayat, Wa'el N; Roman, Lisa; Kandil, Khulood  
**Subject:** RE: Outreach [REDACTED]

RELEASE IN PART B5,B6

B6

Much appreciated, thanks!

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Archie  
Bolster, Senior Reviewer

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Koenig, Scott O (Amman)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 02, 2013 8:41 AM  
**To:** Eussen, Matthew  
**Subject:** RE: Outreach [REDACTED]

B6

Matt,

Thanks for the introduction. I will reach out to his staff and arrange a meeting soonest.

Regards,

**Scott Koenig**  
Political Section  
US Embassy, Amman, Jordan  
T: [REDACTED]  
M: [REDACTED]  
[KoenigSO@state.gov](mailto:KoenigSO@state.gov)

B6  
B6

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

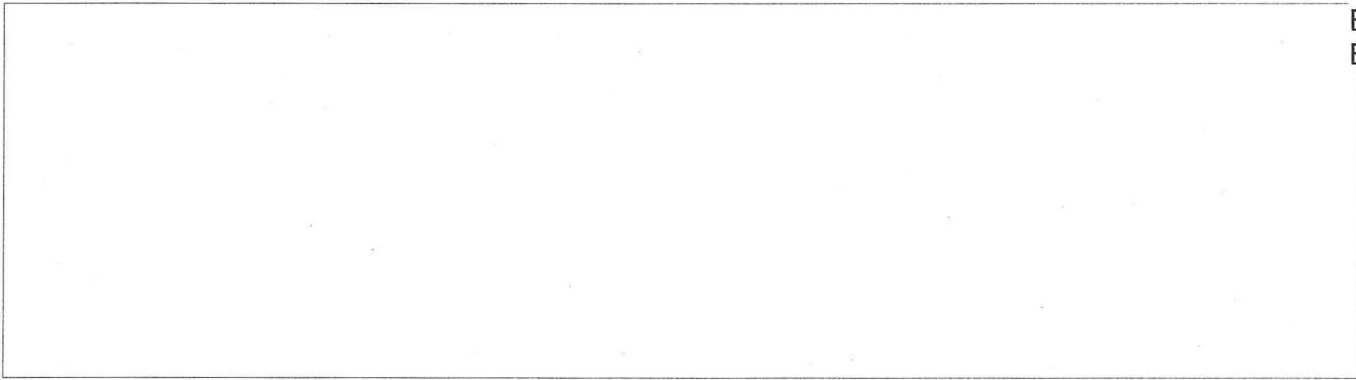
**From:** Eussen, Matthew  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 01, 2013 1:36 AM  
**To:** Koenig, Scott O (Amman)  
**Cc:** Kenna, Lisa D (Amman); NEA-Syria-DL  
**Subject:** Outreach [REDACTED]

B6

Scott-

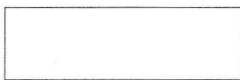
Can we ask for your assistance and introduce you to a new contact? [REDACTED]

B5  
B6



B5  
B6

Thank you in advance-  
-Matt



Amman, Jordan



B6

**Matthew Eussen • Syria Desk Chief • NEA/ELA • U.S. Department of State**

2201 C St, NW Rm 2808, Washington, DC 20520 | ☎:  | [eussenm@state.gov](mailto:eussenm@state.gov)

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.



20 F Street NW, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor, Washington DC 20001 | 202-507-6318 | info@sacouncil.com

RELEASE IN PART  
B6

Ambassador Robert Ford

U.S. Department of State

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Archie  
Bolster, Senior Reviewer

09 17, 2013

Dear Ambassador Ford,



B6

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Talal Sunbulli', written over a horizontal line.

Dr. Talal Sunbulli

President, Syrian American Council





20 F Street NW, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor, Washington DC 20001 | 202-507-6318 | info@sacouncil.com

RELEASE IN PART B6

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Archie  
Bolster, Senior Reviewer



*Embassy of the United States of America  
Amman, Jordan*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

B6

Sincerely,

**Bullard, Avery D**

---

**From:** Ford, Robert S  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 29, 2014 3:49 AM  
**To:** Saha, Trina D; Kandil, Khulood; NEA-Syria-DL  
**Cc:** Silverman, Lawrence R; Polaschik, Joan A; DeJuana, Carlos A  
**Subject:** Re: Request to Raise Imminent Executions with P

RELEASE IN PART  
B5,B6

REVIEW AUTHORITY:  
Archie Bolster, Senior  
Reviewer

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

---

**From:** FordR@state.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 29, 2014 9:46 AM  
**To:** Saha, Trina D; Kandil, Khulood; NEA-Syria-DL  
**Cc:** Silverman, Lawrence R; Polaschik, Joan A; DeJuana, Carlos A  
**Subject:** Re: Request to Raise Imminent Executions with P

Trina - if not too late I'd suggest some points P delivers along these lines:

B5

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

---

**From:** Saha, Trina D  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 29, 2014 9:19 AM  
**To:** Kandil, Khulood; Ford, Robert S; NEA-Syria-DL  
**Cc:** Silverman, Lawrence R; Polaschik, Joan A; DeJuana, Carlos A  
**Subject:** Re: Request to Raise Imminent Executions with P

Colleagues,

[REDACTED]

Thanks,

Trina

---

**From:** Kandil, Khulood

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 29, 2014 12:31 AM Eastern Standard Time

**To:** Ford, Robert S; NEA-Syria-DL

**Cc:** Silverman, Lawrence R; Polaschik, Joan A; Saha, Trina D; DeJuana, Carlos A

**Subject:** Request to Raise Imminent Executions with P

Syrian American Council called to ask if P could raise uptick in activist executions in Damascus by the regime in discussions with Russians today (they learned of her travel through the media).

Reportedly, the regime has executed over 45 activists imprisoned at Kafr Susa prison branch 215 in Damascus since Jan 1 according to activists on the ground. The prison just notified an additional 100 activist prisoners they would be executed in the coming days. They are urging us to raise with Russians to try and prevent. Source claims only 33 activists held at the 215 prison were killed in all of 2013.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Thank you,  
Khulood

---

**From:** Mohammed A Ghanem [mailto:[REDACTED]]

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 28, 2014 11:20 PM Eastern Standard Time

**To:** Kandil, Khulood

**Subject:** Request for urgent assistance in preventing the imminent execution of nonviolent Syrian political activists in regime detention

TO: State Department Officials

FROM: Syrian American Council

SUBJ: Prevent Imminent Political Executions in Syria

Jan 28, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:



I am writing to request your urgent assistance in preventing the imminent execution of nonviolent political activists held in Syrian regime detention. Today, a highly-trusted activist [redacted] [redacted] informed us that such executions have grown more frequent since diplomatic activities relating to the Geneva II talks increased. Thirty activists were executed in only the few days. As diplomatic talks in Geneva continue, I ask that you place political and diplomatic pressure on both the Assad regime and the Russian government to stop these ongoing political executions.

B6

Attached is a report, prepared jointly by the underground activist organizations 'Mezzeh Live' and 'Mezze Coordinating Committee', that enumerates deaths by torture at the nearby Kafr Susa detention center. The report contains information on date of death and date of original arrest for most every victim, as well as more extensive information where available. The organizations that produced the report operate in [redacted] and the Kafr Susa detention center (Branch 215) is connected to the regime's national intelligence headquarters. I learned of the recent deaths and received the report from [redacted] Mezze Live, and whose trustworthiness I can verify.

B6

In early January, regime officials began summoning detained political activists who either had been held for over a year, or had been bullied or tortured into admitting they were fighters. Some of these activists had been forced to "confess" that they "possessed tanks on their rooftops." The activists were summoned before regime officers, three at a time, on the premise that they would be transferred to Saidnaya Prison (which typically houses political prisoners). However, the activists' next-of-kin later received their relatives' ID cards from the local "mukhtar", who claimed that the activists had died of stroke or asthma attacks. No bodies were presented, suggesting death by torture. The mukhtars handed over three IDs per day.

As January progressed, detainees were summoned in larger numbers, chained, and given injections. The last word my activist sources received from these detainees was "Please forgive us, they are taking us to the field court," which meant execution. An examination of the attached report will reveal that

the number of deaths by torture has dramatically increased since the New Year, in a timing that seems to correspond to an uptick in diplomatic activity surrounding Geneva II. While 33 deaths were reported in all of 2013, the report--which is current up to January 13, 2014-- records 12 deaths between January 1-13, 2014 alone. Ten people were executed on just January 8th, the day the Syrian Opposition Coalition originally set to decide on participation in Geneva II.

Today, even as direct negotiations between the regime and opposition are ongoing at Geneva my source reports that 30 people have been executed. Activists have been able to verify the names of 23



victims so far, and those names are also attached. Since there are over 5,000 detainees at Branch 215, of whom over 300 are from Mezzeh District, there is plenty of room for further acceleration of executions should the Assad regime wish it. I believe that urgent action is needed to prevent such an acceleration and to stop further executions of political detainees at Branch 215. For this reason, I urge you to take advantage of ongoing diplomatic talks, and intercede with Russia and with the Assad regime itself to halt these executions. Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Mohammed Alaa Ghanem

--

Mohammed Alaa Ghanem

Senior Political Adviser, Government Relations Director, and Strategist

Syrian American Council (SAC), Capitol Hill

20 F Street NW, Washington D.C. 20001

Telephone:

Fax: 202-507-6101

<http://www.sacouncil.com/>

B6

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**Bullard, Avery D**

**From:** [redacted] on behalf of Mohammed A Ghanem

B6

**Sent:** Thursday, December 19, 2013 8:00 PM

**To:** Kandil, Khulood

**Subject:** Re: time for a phone call?

RELEASE IN  
PART  
B1,1.4(D),B6

REVIEW AUTHORITY:  
Archie Bolster, Senior  
Reviewer

Thanks, Khulood. I would like to explain to you why I'm interested in this so you relay an accurate representation of my position

1.4(D)  
B1

Best

Mohammed

Classified by Director A/GIS/IPS, Acting, DoS on 05/12/2016 ~ Class: CONFIDENTIAL ~  
Reason: B1 1.4(D) ~ Declassify on: 12/19/2033

On Thu, Dec 19, 2013 at 7:14 PM, Kandil, Khulood <[KandilK@state.gov](mailto:KandilK@state.gov)> wrote:

Ok I can see about setting up a meeting with amb Ford. He's out this week.

**From:** Mohammed A Ghanem [mailto:[redacted]]

**Sent:** Thursday, December 19, 2013 07:11 PM Eastern Standard Time

B6

**To:** Kandil, Khulood

**Subject:** Re: time for a phone call?

Sure that would for me. [redacted] is a friend.

B6

I had a different idea in mind but it all depends on what the DoS has in mind. [redacted]

1.4(D)  
B1

1.4(D)  
B1

[REDACTED]

Let me know

Best  
Mohammed

On Thu, Dec 19, 2013 at 6:37 PM, Kandil, Khulood <[KandilK@state.gov](mailto:KandilK@state.gov)> wrote:

Up to you.

I am having lunch with [REDACTED] and a former Syrian diplomat [REDACTED] I think it would be great if you could join us as many of the topics of discussion could benefit from your input.

B6

Please, let me know.

Khulood

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** [REDACTED] **On Behalf Of** Mohammed A Ghanem  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 19, 2013 6:32 PM

B6

**To:** Kandil, Khulood  
**Subject:** Re: time for a phone call?

What time? I prefer afternoon. And can you give me an idea who I will be discussing this with besides you.

On Thu, Dec 19, 2013 at 6:30 PM, Kandil, Khulood <[KandilK@state.gov](mailto:KandilK@state.gov)> wrote:

Thank you. See you tomorrow, inshallah!

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** [REDACTED] **On Behalf Of** Mohammed A Ghanem  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 19, 2013 6:28 PM

B6

**To:** Kandil, Khulood  
**Subject:** Re: time for a phone call?

I see where the confusion is coming from

[REDACTED] is MB but [REDACTED] is Alawi

On Thu, Dec 19, 2013 at 6:18 PM, Kandil, Khulood <[KandilK@state.gov](mailto:KandilK@state.gov)> wrote:

Ok, tomorrow is good.

Quick question: is [REDACTED] alawi or mb?

B6

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** [REDACTED] **On Behalf Of** Mohammed  
A Ghanem  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 19, 2013 6:18 PM  
**To:** Kandil, Khulood  
**Subject:** Re: time for a phone call?

B6



Let me know when you would like to meet. I'm available tomorrow.

On Thu, Dec 19, 2013 at 5:26 PM, Kandil, Khulood <[KandilK@state.gov](mailto:KandilK@state.gov)> wrote:

Do you have a minute? Are you back?

Khulood M. Kandil

Syria Desk Officer

desk

cell

[kandilk@state.gov](mailto:kandilk@state.gov)

B6

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

--

Mohammed Alaa Ghanem

Senior Political Adviser, Government Relations Director, and Strategist

Syrian American Council (SAC), Capitol Hill

20 F Street NW, Washington D.C. 20001

Telephone:

Fax: [202-507-6101](tel:202-507-6101)

Mobile:

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**Bullard, Avery D**

---

**From:** Roman, Lisa  
**Sent:** Friday, December 20, 2013 12:03 PM  
**To:** Eussen, Matthew; Kandil, Khulood; Escrogima, Ana A; Alzayat, Wa'el N; Irwin, Matthew T  
**Subject:** Re: Email i told you about

[Redacted]

1.4(D)  
B1  
B5

**From:** Eussen, Matthew  
**Sent:** Friday, December 20, 2013 11:59 AM  
**To:** Kandil, Khulood; Escrogima, Ana A; Alzayat, Wa'el N; Roman, Lisa; Irwin, Matthew T  
**Subject:** RE: Email i told you about

Moh'd is great, [Redacted]

1.4(D)  
B1  
B5

Would like to hear what others think.

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

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Archie Bolster, Senior  
Reviewer

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Kandil, Khulood  
**Sent:** Friday, December 20, 2013 11:43 AM  
**To:** Eussen, Matthew  
**Subject:** Email i told you about

What is the best way to respond bearing in mind he is a good contact?  
Thank you.

Classified by Director A/GIS/IPS, Acting, DoS on 05/12/2016 ~ Class: CONFIDENTIAL ~ Reason: B1 1.4(D), B5) ~ Declassify on: 12/20/2033

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** [Redacted] [mailto:[Redacted]] **On Behalf Of** Mohammed A Ghanem  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 19, 2013 8:00 PM  
**To:** Kandil, Khulood  
**Subject:** Re: time for a phone call?

B6

Thanks, Khlulood. I would like to explain to you why I'm interested in this so you relay an accurate representation of my position

[Redacted]

1.4(D)  
B1



Best  
Mohammed

Mohammed Alaa Ghanem

Senior Political Adviser, Government Relations Director, and Strategist  
Syrian American Council (SAC), Capitol Hill  
20 F Street NW, Washington D.C. 20001  
Telephone:   
Fax: 202-507-6101  
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