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Committees:  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
Chairman, Subcommittee on  
Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats  
Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific  
SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY  
(VICE CHAIRMAN)  
Subcommittee on Space  
Subcommittee on Environment

## Congress of the United States House of Representatives

March 11, 2013

The Honorable John Kerry  
Secretary of State  
Department of State  
2201 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Kerry:

The terrorist assassination of a U.S. ambassador and other diplomatic personnel, coupled with the intentional misrepresentation of that crime as the result of an out-of-control demonstration against a movie, was a confusing and traumatic event for the American people. Hopefully, any future crisis will be handled differently and with the change in leadership, the State Department will be more responsive to legitimate requests for information regarding events of great public concern.

During her appearance before the House Foreign Affairs Committee on January 23, then Secretary Hillary Clinton claimed that no one at State had debriefed the department's employees and other American personnel who had been involved in the Benghazi attack. If this is true, something is very wrong with the system.

This is not an incident of little importance. For the Secretary of State not to know all the pertinent details is alarming. If that is indeed the case. Instead, it is more rational to believe that she does know. It is not unreasonable to assume she was using tactics meant to keep information from the Committee.

In the wake of the hearing, Chairman Edward Royce of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, with jurisdiction and oversight of the State Department, requested a listing of and access to those with first-hand information of the attack (often referred to as the survivors). It is evident that your department has not cooperated with the Congress as it has not responded to this request. In short, State appears to be stonewalling a legitimate request for information, perhaps as part of an effort to cover up evidence of wrongdoing or incompetence. This is unacceptable. As a Senator, you would not have tolerated such behavior, and you should not perpetuate it now.

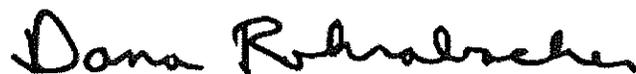
Certainly in the two months since the hearing, and the six months since the attack, the survivors have been interviewed and debriefed by the State Department and other government

agencies with a stake in understanding this terrorist incident and a responsibility to correct any flaws in the system that lead to the deaths of our diplomatic personnel. The House Foreign Affairs Committee has a right to know what the survivors saw and experienced in the service of their country on that dreadful night. I trust you will be fully cooperative with the Committee and provide it with all the information requested and a listing of the specific personnel involved and how to contact them.

The legislative branch has an obligation to oversee the policies and actions of the U.S. government, including the State Department and other agencies. Your predecessor's handling of these lawful requests bordered on contempt of Congress and demonstrated a total disregard for the public's right to know.

I will be recommending to Chairman Royce, and also to Committee on Oversight and Government Reform Chairman Darrell Issa, that if the situation does not immediately improve legal charges be leveled against those responsible to insure that the details of this attack on American diplomatic personnel are not kept hidden from the American people.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dana Rohrabacher". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Dana Rohrabacher  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia and Emerging  
Threats  
House Foreign Affairs Committee