



The Honorable John Kerry
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, N.W. Washington, DC 20520

5 August 2015

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The purpose of this letter is to request that your Department immediately suspend the security clearances of four former officials whom the Department of State may have permitted to retain individual security clearances under sponsorship of the Department even after leaving the Department.

These four very senior officials (former Secretary Clinton, Jake Sullivan, Cheryl Mills and Huma Abedin), while still employed by the Department, violated a plethora of departmental directives and Title 18 US Code by their involvement with a privately-owned and operated email server and domain to send and receive official emails, some of which contained one or more of the following categories of information:

- 1. Information that was unlawfully removed “without authority and with the intent to retain such documents or materials at an unauthorized location.” Title 18 USC 1924.**
- 2. Information that was or should have been classified under the provisions of Executive Order (EO) 13526 and Volume 5 Foreign Affairs Manual (FAM) § 480.**
- 3. Foreign Government Information (FGI) whether or not marked as classified. The unauthorized disclosure of FGI is presumed to cause damage to the national security § 1.1.(d) E.O. 13526 and 5 FAM § 482.6.**
- 4. Other information requiring protection to include Sensitive But Unclassified (SBU), Personally Identifying Information (PII) and possibly Critical Infrastructure Information (CII).**

The reason our organization brings this matter to your attention is our belief that national security classified information was transmitted in emails by senior State Department officials that ended-up resident on the clintonemail.com server. This view is clearly supported by the recent actions of two independent Inspectors General (State and DNI) who have referred the matter to the Department of Justice for further

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investigation. The State Department IG, General Linick, stated that emails contained classified material when generated. It is now apparent that there were breaches involving five intelligence agencies.

Unfortunately, there is ample evidence that this private server was inadequately protected from foreign intelligence penetration and malicious "hacking." Indeed, the existence of this server and its use by senior State Department officials to send and receive official emails was first disclosed publically by a hacker from Romania

We at OPSEC strongly believe that every email passing through the clintonemail.com server has been compromised and is now available in the raw intelligence data files of a number of hostile security services around the world. This is a serious breach of our nation's diplomatic, operational and strategic security

Therefore, we at OPSEC strongly believe that the Department of State should exercise its administrative authority to suspend any existing security clearances of these four individuals and those of any and all other individuals currently or formerly in the employ of the United States Government who may have used, in any form, the clintonemail.com service, pending final adjudication.

As you are aware, suspension of clearance is a standard practice when allegations such as those noted by the Inspectors General and others have been made concerning the mishandling or potential exposure of classified material endangering the national security of the United States. A list of recent actions regarding security clearances and other DOS and government employees is appended for reference. Title 18 USC 1924 defines the penalties for mishandling of classified or sensitive information.

Obviously a review, with all due process protections, should be undertaken to determine the extent of individual culpability, if any, and to assess the consequential damages, if any, to our national security. The Departments of State and Justice and relevant Congressional oversight committees bear the responsibility of ensuring that relevant laws and policies, designed to protect the security of the American people, are enforced. The first step in that process is to suspend immediately any and all clearances of the four persons named and others who used the unsecured server.

With Sincere Regards,



*Scott Taylor
President, Special Operations Education Fund (OPSEC)*

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CC:

Director, Information Security Oversight Office (ISOO)

Inspector General McCullough, DNI

Director Clapper, DNI

Inspector General Linick, DOS

Attorney General Loretta Lynch

Speaker of the House Boehner

Senator Burr, Chairman, Senate Joint Intelligence Committee

Senator Grassley, Chairman, Senate Committee on the Judiciary

Congressman Nunes, Chairman, House Intelligence Committee

Congressman Gowdy, Chairman, House Select Committee on Benghazi

Congressman Chaffetz, Chairman, House Committee on Government Oversight

Congressman Goodlatte, House Committee on the Judiciary

Appendix: Examples of previous actions against individual security clearances

- 1. Ambassador to Israel Martin Indyk**
- 2. Ambassador to Kenya Scott Gration**
- 3. Foreign Service Officer Peter Van Buren**
- 4. CIA Director John Deutch**
- 5. National Security Advisor Sandy Berger**
- 6. General David Petraeus**

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