

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 20, 2015

The Honorable Ashton B. Carter  
Secretary of Defense  
1300 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20301-1300

Dear Secretary Carter:

We write today concerning the administration's recent release of Shaker Aamer from the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay. Upon reviewing the notification of transfer we noticed that that the Joint Chiefs of Staff was not one of the entities listed as "concurring" and "approving" of the transfer, as is the norm.

Additionally, the Pentagon press release concerning this transfer says "Aamer was unanimously approved for transfer by the six departments and agencies comprising the [Guantanamo Review] task force," which seems misleading. We therefore respectfully ask that you provide, in writing, answers to the following questions to the Senate and House Armed Services, Intelligence, Foreign Relations, Homeland Security, and Appropriations Committees.

- 1) What were the key factors that led the Joint Chiefs not to concur on your decision to transfer Shaker Aamer?
- 2) Were the Joint Chiefs concerned that his release could put at risk the lives of U.S. servicemembers?
- 3) Do you plan to continue seeking the advice of the Joint Chiefs on future transfers?
- 4) Did you review the Shaker Aamer press release prior to publication? If so, why did you publicly claim the Guantanamo Review Task Force unanimously supported Aamer's transfer when it does not appear the Joint Chiefs supported that transfer decision?

Thank you for your timely attention to these important matters of national security.

United States Senate

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Sincerely,

Tom Cotton

Pat Roberts

Ron Johnson

John Boozman

Tom Tillis

Jerry Moran

Mark

[Signature]

Susan M. Collins

Rob Portman

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