

**Statement of Michael and Tareq Salahi**  
**Before**  
**The Committee on Homeland Security**

**January 20, 2010**

**Honorable Members of the Committee on Homeland Security:**

Prior to being contacted by anyone from the Committee to invite us to speak at your December hearing, we asked that our attorneys reach out to the Committee, meet with various staff Members and provide them with key information to assist the Committee in their review of relevant Homeland Security issues. We understand that our attorneys met with Chairman's Thompson's Staff as well as with Representative King and his staff and provided them phone records, emails and other relevant documentary evidence. We have continued to provide relevant documentary evidence and be as helpful as we can to the important security concerns you are investigating.

We also understand the Committee received our attorneys' letter and our attached declaration indicating that, based on advice of counsel, we intended to assert our Constitutional Right to remain silent and decline to answer any questions if we were to be subpoenaed to appear before the Committee.

We find it unfortunate that the Committee nonetheless required us to appear in person to invoke our Fifth Amendment Right under the United States Constitution to remain silent, even though it is against the Ethical Rules of the DC Bar to do so. Indeed Congressman Waxman chastised this exact conduct in another hearing.

We reiterate that, on advice of counsel, we respectfully invoke our right to remain silent and will decline to answer any questions surrounding the circumstances around the events of November 24, 2009.

We appreciate the offer from Representative Thompson's staff to present ourselves for questioning in Executive Session and out of the public spectrum. We understand that, to do so would afford us no legal protection and it would not have been fair to accept the offer knowing we would still invoke our right to remain silent.

Our counsel offered last week to the Committee an opportunity to provide further information and make a full attorney proffer to the full Committee or any interested Members of all relevant information but that offer was declined by Chairman Thompson's staff.

We again offer the opportunity for our counsel to meet with the Members of the Committee and assist in this review of important Homeland Security issues.

Finally, we are strong supporters of the men and women in uniform, both here and abroad. The men and women of the United States Secret Service have a tradition of excellence in both their investigative and protective missions and nothing that transpired on November 24 should take away from the extraordinary service the United States Secret Service performs on a daily basis.

Thank you.

Michaele and Tareq Salahi