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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6050

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August 13, 2015

The Honorable Ashton Carter
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Attorney General Loretta Lynch
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Secretary Carter and Attorney General Lynch:

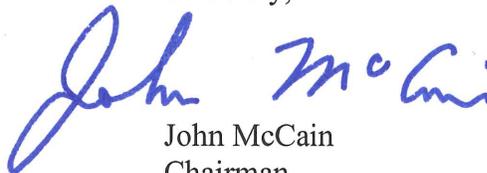
I am deeply concerned by the Administration's decision to transfer to the Kurdistan Regional Government in Iraq Nasrin As'ad Ibrahim, also known as Umm Sayyaf, who was captured by U.S. forces in Syria on May 15 during the operation that killed her husband, Abu Sayyaf, a senior leader in the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL).

Umm Sayyaf was clearly involved at the top levels of a foreign terrorist organization with which the United States is in a state of hostilities. Indeed, the White House has said that she was "complicit" in the illegal captivity of Kayla Mueller, the U.S. citizen and aid worker who was abducted and held by ISIL in Syria until her tragic death earlier this year.

In light of those circumstances, I would respectfully request a detailed explanation in writing for why Umm Sayyaf was not extradited to the United States to stand trial. In particular, I would like to know whether representatives of the Department of Justice recommended bringing charges against Umm Sayyaf in the United States prior to her release to Iraqi custody. I would also like to know what commitments, if any, the Kurdistan Regional Government or the Government of Iraq have provided to ensure that Umm Sayyaf is held responsible for her actions.

I look forward to your timely response on this important matter.

Sincerely,



John McCain
Chairman