

CHARLES E. GRASSLEY, IOWA, CHAIRMAN

ORRIN G. HATCH, UTAH
LINDSEY O. GRAHAM, SOUTH CAROLINA
JOHN CORNYN, TEXAS
MICHAEL S. LEE, UTAH
TED CRUZ, TEXAS
BEN SASSE, NEBRASKA
JEFF FLAKE, ARIZONA
MIKE CRAPO, IDAHO
THOM TILLIS, NORTH CAROLINA
JOHN KENNEDY, LOUISIANA

DIANNE FEINSTEIN, CALIFORNIA
PATRICK J. LEAHY, VERMONT
RICHARD J. DURBIN, ILLINOIS
SHELDON WHITEHOUSE, RHODE ISLAND
AMY KLOBUCHAR, MINNESOTA
AL FRANKEN, MINNESOTA
CHRISTOPHER A. COONS, DELAWARE
RICHARD BLUMENTHAL, CONNECTICUT
MAZIE HIRONO, HAWAII

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

KOLAN L. DAVIS, Chief Counsel and Staff Director
JENNIFER DUCK, Democratic Staff Director

May 10, 2017

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

The Honorable Rod J. Rosenstein
Deputy Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530

Andrew McCabe
Acting Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
935 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20535

Dear Deputy Attorney General Rosenstein and Acting Director McCabe:

According to recent news reports, in June 2014, Daniela Greene, an FBI translator with a top-secret clearance, traveled to Syria and married an ISIS recruiter named Denis Cuspert, a.k.a. Abu Talha al-Almani.¹

Reports state that Greene was a foreign-born FBI contract linguist. She started working for the FBI in 2011, and in January 2014 she was assigned to the Detroit Field office to investigate Cuspert. Cuspert had attracted the attention of counter-terrorism authorities, including the FBI, because of his growing influence as an online recruiter for violent jihadists. Reportedly, Greene alerted Cuspert that he was the subject of an FBI investigation and shared classified information with him.

On June 11, 2014, Greene filled out a Report of Foreign Travel Form,² claiming that she was taking a "Vacation/Personal" trip to Germany to visit her parents. Instead, on June 23, 2014, she flew on a one-way ticket to Istanbul, Turkey, and then traveled to Gaziantep, which is approximately 20 miles from the Syrian border. With assistance from one of Cuspert's associates, she crossed the border into Syria and married him.

Apparently, Greene quickly regretted her decision and somehow returned to the United States where she was arrested upon her arrival on August 8, 2014. She cooperated with

¹ Scott Glover, *The FBI Translator Who Went Rogue and Married an ISIS Terrorist*, CNN (May 1, 2017, 11:40 PM), <http://www.cnn.com/2017/05/01/politics/investigates-fbi-syria-greene/>.

² FBI employees and contractors with security clearances are required to fill out Report of Foreign Travel forms when traveling abroad.

authorities and pled guilty in December 2014 to making false statements involving international terrorism. Greene was sentenced to two years in federal prison and was released in August 2016.

The Committee requests additional information about how an FBI contractor, unbeknownst to the FBI, engaged in a romantic relationship with the subject of a counterterrorism investigation and traveled to Syria to marry him. Additionally, the Committee requests information about the Department's decision to offer Greene a plea deal. Please provide the following information and a briefing to Committee staff no later than May 24, 2017.

1. How and when did the FBI become aware that Greene had engaged in a romantic relationship with Cusper? Please explain how this relationship developed without the FBI's knowledge.
2. How and when did the FBI become aware that Greene had traveled to Syria?
3. What information does the Report of Travel form collect? Please explain the review and approval process for these forms.
 - a. Does the FBI take steps to verify the information provided on these forms prior to approving them?
 - b. Does the FBI take steps to verify that the employee or contractor adheres to the travel itinerary provided on the form?
4. What steps has the FBI taken to ensure a similar incident will not happen in the future? Please explain.
5. Did the FBI discipline any employees or contractors as a result of these circumstances? Please explain in detail, why or why not?
6. Please explain the screening and training processes that the FBI requires for its contractors and provide copies of the relevant training materials.
7. Please explain the Department's decision to offer Greene a plea deal and to argue for her to receive a reduced sentence.

I anticipate that your written reply and any responsive documents will be unclassified. Please send all unclassified material directly to the Committee. In keeping with the requirements of Executive Order 13526, if any of the responsive documents do contain classified information, please segregate all unclassified material within the classified documents, provide all unclassified information directly to the Committee, and provide a classified addendum to the Office of Senate Security. Although the Committee complies with all laws and regulations governing the handling of classified information, it is not bound, absent its prior agreement, by any handling restrictions or instructions on unclassified information unilaterally asserted by the

The Honorable Rod J. Rosenstein
Mr. Andrew McCabe
May 10, 2017
Page 3 of 3

Executive Branch.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions, please contact Katherine Nikas or Samantha Brennan of my Committee staff at (202) 224-5225.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Grassley
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary

cc: The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary

The Honorable Michael E. Horowitz
Inspector General
U.S. Department of Justice

The Honorable John F. Kelly
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security