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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

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October 5, 2011

Via Electronic Communication

The Honorable Eric H. Holder, Jr.
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Holder:

On September 30, 2011, it was reported that Anwar al-Awlaqi was killed in an operation conducted by the United States in Yemen. According to media accounts, the operation was conducted following the issuance of a secret memorandum issued by the Department of Justice authorizing the targeted killing of a U.S. citizen abroad. The published accounts include details provided by "administration officials" and describe the memorandum as the product of a review of legal issues raised by targeting and killing a U.S. citizen.

As the Ranking Member of the Committee on the Judiciary, I request that you provide a copy of the memorandum described in press accounts to the Committee for review. This document should be made available, along with any other corresponding, related, or derivative memoranda that were prepared as part of drafting the memorandum. The memorandum should be made available in an unredacted manner. Should the memorandum be classified, please alert my staff so appropriate procedures can be followed to transmit the document.

Thank you for your cooperation and attention to this important matter. I would appreciate your response, including the requested memorandum, no later than October 21, 2011.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member