

# FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

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February 24, 2016

The President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association (FLEOA) – the nation's largest professional, non-profit association representing 26,000 federal law enforcement officers from 65 agencies – I am writing to you regarding the safe return of Robert Alan Levinson.

Robert Alan Levinson, an American patriot who served his country as an FBI and DEA Special Agent before retirement, disappeared on March 9, 2007 while visiting Iran's Kish Island. It is believed that Levinson was kidnapped by Iranian officials two weeks before the seizure of Royal Navy personnel.

In June 2007, President George W. Bush released a statement on Levinson's case, saying: "I am ... disturbed by the Iranian regime's refusal so far to provide any information on Robert Levinson, despite repeated U.S. requests. I call on Iran's leaders to tell us what they know about his whereabouts."

On January 13, 2009, U.S. Senator Bill Nelson revealed during Hillary Clinton's confirmation hearing that he believes Robert Levinson is being held in a secret prison in Iran. "The door has been closed at every turn", Nelson said during Clinton's confirmation hearing. "We think he is being held by the government of Iran in a secret prison."

According to The New York Times, Levinson had been meeting with Dawud Salahuddin, (an American convert to Islam wanted for the 1980 murder of an Iranian dissident in the US) "just before he went missing".

On March 8, 2013, your Administration released a [statement](#) to mark the sixth anniversary of Levinson's kidnapping. Press Secretary Jay Carney said, "Finding him remains a high priority for the United States, and we will continue to do all that we can to bring him home safely to his friends and family, so they may begin to heal after so many years of extraordinary grief and uncertainty. The Iranian Government previously offered

assistance in locating Mr. Levinson and we look forward to receiving this assistance, even as we disagree on other key issues."

Secretary of State John Kerry also met with Levinson's wife and son "to reiterate that the U.S. government remains committed to locating Mr. Levinson and reuniting him safely with his family."

Unfortunately, U.S. citizens and Levinson's family have seen little action by its government to force Iran to shed light on the mystery of Robert Levinson's whereabouts. After almost 9 years, it is unthinkable that our government would allow the Iranian regime to not answer the questions related to Levinson's disappearance. What message does this send to American's travelling abroad?

FLEOA and the FBI Agents Association have and continue to strongly urge this Administration to unleash the power of the United States' government and use its leverage against the Iranian regime and provide answers. Locating and identifying the whereabouts of former FBI Agent Levinson is both within our national interest and to bring closure to the unnecessary suffering Robert Levinson and his family have been through.

The continuation of our government's policy of appeasement of the Iran by allowing it to seize U.S. citizens, including US Naval personnel, must stop. Our government should meet with Iranian officials and demand that they identify Levinson's location or suffer consequences if they do not.

FLEOA feels that our government must ensure the safety of U.S. citizens when abroad and reinforce the age old adage that no matter where you are in the world, the title of American citizen carries weight and a sense of protection. Robert Alan Levinson is an American citizen and he deserves the full effort of his government – which he has selflessly served for years – to bring him home.

Respectfully,

Nathan R. Catura

*Nathan R. Catura*

FLEOA National President

CC: The Honorable John Kerry, Secretary of State,  
Members of the House Foreign Affairs Committee,  
Members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee