PATRICK MEEHAN
7TH DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

ETHICS COMMITTEE

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SUBCOMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–3807

January 13, 2015

The Hon. Chuck Hagel
Secretary of Defense
U.S. Department of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1300

Dear Secretary Hagel,

We write to you today with grave concern about the escalation in violence by Boko Haram, the Islamic extremist group active in West Africa and an officially designated foreign terrorist organization. As you know, Boko Haram has become increasingly aggressive and lethal in recent months.

Boko Haram earned global headlines last year when it abducted some 200 young Nigerian women. Its campaign of terror has continued since. Reports indicate that the group was responsible last week for the massacre of some 2,000 innocent civilians in several villages in northern Nigeria. Most recently, Boko Haram is apparently responsible for a suicide bombing in northeast Nigeria that utilized 10-year old girls as the bombers.

It is clear that the United States needs a comprehensive strategy to address Boko Haram's growing lethality. In light of this, we seek answers to the following questions:

- What is the United States' strategy to address Boko Haram, and how would you characterize the effectiveness of this strategy in light of Boko Haram's growing capabilities and effectiveness in West Africa?

- According to multiple public reports, the United States military has sent military and security advisors to aid the Nigerian government in combating Boko Haram. What progress have these advisors made in making Nigeria's antiterrorism forces more effective, and do you believe that the resources we've dedicated to aiding Nigeria are sufficient? What additional resources or authorities do you require to address this threat?

- Thus far it appears Boko Haram has hardly been affected by the presence of US advisors assisting the Nigerian government in their fight. When do you expect to see results for our efforts to assist our allies in destroying Boko Haram?

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We trust you fully recognize the threat to US interests this network poses. Boko Haram has been committing some of the most destructive and savage terrorist attacks of the last five years and appears to have only grown in their sophistication

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and effectiveness. It is our hope that working with our regional partners to address this threat will prevent Boko Haram from killing more innocent people and further threatening the United States Homeland.

Sincerely,

Patrick Meehan
Member of Congress

Peter King
Member of Congress

Cc: Secretary of State Kerry