

STEPHEN J. SOLARZ
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August 1, 1996

The Honorable Sam Nunn
Committee on Armed Services
United States Senate
SR-228 Russell Senate Office Building

Dear Senator Nunn:

I am writing regarding the case of Richard M. Barlow, who, I believe, has been in touch with the Senate Armed Services Committee concerning his treatment by the Department of Defense.

In 1991, when I was chairman of the House Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs, I tried to assist Barlow in resolving his legal difficulties with the Department of Defense. My actions were motivated primarily by Barlow's belief that he had been victimized because his superiors in the Department of Defense had come to believe that he had been too candid in testifying before my subcommittee on matters relating to Pakistan's nuclear weapons program.

On April 30, 1991, I wrote Deputy Secretary of Defense, Donald J. Arwood, that Barlow's case "has dragged on for an unconscionably long time at great personal, professional, and financial cost to Barlow, who, as I understand it, has never been found guilty of any wrongdoing, despite extensive investigations into his conduct."

You can well imagine my surprise, then, when I recently discovered that Barlow's case was still unresolved.

I am writing now to request that you do what you can to help Barlow resolve this unhappy affair in a manner that is equitable and appropriate. If Barlow's allegations are accurate, it would appear that he has suffered a grave injustice for no reason other than because he wished to be responsive to legitimate Congressional inquiries.

Beyond Barlow's personal situation, this case would appear to raise two broader matters: whether representatives of the Executive Branch falsley testified before relevant Congressional committees, and whether senior Executive Branch officials exacted retribution upon those who attempted to respond to legitimate Congressional inquiries.

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While the actions prompting Barlow's allegations occurred some years ago, it would seem that Congress nonetheless has an interest in ascertaining the truth of these allegations, inasmuch as silence and inaction would denote acquiescence in behavior that challenges the Congressional right to relevant and accurate information.

Moreover, since Barlow alleges that senior Department of Defense officials lied or otherwise misled me and my subcommittee, I have a personal interest in ascertaining the truth.

I would be pleased to discuss this matter further with you. I have no axes to grind, my primary motivation is simply to help remedy injustice, if indeed an injustice has taken place.

Please feel free to contact me at 1120 Bellview Road, McLean, VA 22102. My phone number is (703) 759-3326.

Sincerely,



Stephen Solatz

SJS/ba

cc: Arnold Punaro
Staff Director (Minority)