Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 30, 2013

The Honorable John Kerry
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Kerry:

It has been more than a year since the terrorist attack on the Special Mission Compound in Benghazi, Libya, which resulted in the death of four Americans, including Ambassador Chris Stevens. To date, no terrorist has been captured or held accountable for the heinous attack on U.S. diplomatic personnel that fateful day.

President Obama vowed that his administration's "biggest priority" was to bring these attackers to justice. We are therefore troubled that the Department of State has failed to make available a reward under the Rewards for Justice program ("RFJ") for the apprehension of the perpetrators of the Benghazi terrorist attack, despite the fact that your Department describes the RFJ as "one of the most valuable assets the U.S. Government has in the fight against international terrorism."

As you know, under the RFJ program created by Congress, the Secretary of State may offer rewards for information that leads to the arrest or conviction of anyone who plans, commits, or attempts international terrorist acts against U.S. persons or property, that prevents such acts from occurring in the first place, that leads to the location of a key terrorist leader, or that disrupts terrorism financing.

In addition to paid newspaper, radio, and TV ads in foreign media, RFJ uses billboards, flyers, leaflets, matchbooks, and posters to publicize reward offers. Beginning in 2010, the U.S.-funded Voice of America began broadcasting public service announcements about RFJ suspects. These are simple, yet very effective, tools for increasing awareness and bringing terrorists to justice.

According to the Department, since RFJ's inception in 1984, the United States has paid more than $125 million to over 80 people who provided actionable information that put terrorists behind bars or prevented acts of international terrorism worldwide. The program played a significant role in the arrest of international terrorist Ramzi Yousef, who was convicted in the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center. As you know, given this success, earlier this year the President signed into law an expansion of the program in order to combat transnational organized crime. This expansion reflects clear congressional intent to broaden the use of economic incentives to advance U.S. national security.

We fail to understand, therefore, how the administration could not use such an important counterterrorism tool for the perpetrators of the Benghazi terrorist attack. Please explain why one of the most valuable assets the U.S. government has in the fight against international

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terrorism is not being employed in this instance. If RFJ is somehow inadequate and needs reform, we respectfully request that you provide us with your thoughts about how to improve this program so that it may once again be used for its intended purpose. We look forward to your response to this letter.

Sincerely,

Michael T. McCaul
Chairman
House Homeland Security Committee

Edward R. Royce
Chairman
House Foreign Affairs Committee

Howard P. "Buck" McKeon
Chairman
House Armed Services Committee

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