Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 26, 2012

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

Dear President Obama:

We are writing to request that you immediately order an investigation into possible violation of U.S. law regarding numerous leaks of sensitive information involving U.S. and Israeli military, intelligence, and operational capabilities. These leaks undermine our national security, as well as Israel's ability to defend itself against the multitude of threats that seek to jeopardize Israel's sovereignty and destabilize the region.

On March 19, 2012, *The New York Times* reported the name, scenarios, and conclusions of a classified war simulation recently conducted by United States Central Command (CENTCOM) to analyze an Israeli military attack on Iranian nuclear facilities.[1] The article included detailed information provided by U.S. officials who took part in the simulation or were later briefed on the results.

A little over one week later, on March 28, 2012, *Foreign Policy* magazine reported that Israel had been granted secret access to airbases in Azerbaijan near Iran's northern border which would be used to launch air or drone-based strikes, and search and rescue aircraft in the event of an Israeli military operation against Iran.[2] The *Foreign Policy* article quoted "high-level sources... inside the U.S. government," and specifically quoted "a senior administration official" and "a military intelligence officer engaged in assessing the ramifications of a prospective Israeli attack."

There are some who believe that these leaks are intended to selectively release sensitive information about Israel's military, intelligence, and operational capabilities which may, in turn, undermine Israel's ability to defend itself. Whether the leaks are intentional or not, they weaken U.S. and Israeli national security, strengthen Iran's defensive posture, and put American and Israeli lives at risk. These leaks not only violate U.S. law, but they send a chilling message to our allies around the world.

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[1] Mark Mazzetti and Thom Shanker, "U.S. War Game Sees Perils of Israeli Strike Against Iran." *The New York Times*, March 19, 2012, accessed at http://www.nytimes.com/2012/03/20/world/middleeast/united-states-war-game-sees-dire-results-of-an-israeli-attack-on-iran.html?emc=eta1.

[2] Mark Perry, "Israel's Secret Staging Ground." *Foreign Policy*, March 28, 2012, accessed at http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2012/03/28/israel_s_secret_staging_ground.

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As you have said on multiple occasions, Israel has the right to defend itself. Therefore, we believe you must make prosecution a top priority and hold accountable those who are in violation of U.S. law, thus putting at risk U.S. and Israeli national security.[3] We urge you to take immediate action to ensure such leaks do not continue to threaten our national security and Israel's self-defense capabilities.

We look forward to working with you on this important matter. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

GA-06

(PA-7)

Doug Lamborn CO-5

Tx-11

Flemming LA04

MD-01

Bill Johnson OH-6

MI-07

Tx-17

Kevin Brady TX-8

TX-1

SC-3

cc: Attorney General Eric Holder
cc: Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta
cc: CIA Director David Petraeus

[3] Yitzhak Benhorin, "US Denies Leaking Information on Israeli Access to Azeri Airbases." Ynetnews.com, March 31, 2012, accessed at http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-4210439,00.html.

Michael B. Thomsen

Michael McCarl

Chip Grovaart