

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 10, 2024

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

The Honorable Christopher Wray
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Dear Director Wray:

On October 7, 2024, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) arrested Nasir Ahmad Tawhedi in Oklahoma after he allegedly planned an Election Day terrorist attack in the United States on behalf of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS).¹ According to the Department of Justice's (DOJ) complaint, the FBI found pro-ISIS propaganda on Tawhedi's devices and email account, as well as communications with a conspirator where Tawhedi stated to him "[a]fter that we will begin our duty, God willing, with the help of God, we will get ready for the election day."² Additionally, Tawhedi and his co-conspirator purchased two AK-47s and ten magazines for the planned attack from undercover FBI employees on October 7, 2024.³

According to the DOJ's criminal complaint and public reporting, Tawhedi entered the United States on September 9, 2021, on a special immigrant visa (SIV) during the same time period as the Biden-Harris administration's Operation Allies Refuge (OAR) and Operation Allies Welcome (OAW), and is currently on parole status pending adjudication of his immigration proceedings.⁴ As you are aware, for years I've raised serious concerns about the Biden-Harris administration's sweeping failures to properly vet Afghan evacuees and have taken issue with FBI's improper classification of data regarding assessments and investigations into them.⁵ This improper classification has prevented the American public from knowing important information.

¹ *United States v. Tawhedi*, M-27-760-SM (W.D. Okla. 2024) at 1, <https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/25196610-usa-v-tawhedi>; Louis Casiano, David Spunt, *Afghan man in Oklahoma plotted Election Day terror attack in US on behalf of ISIS, Justice Department says*, FOX NEWS (Oct. 8, 2024), <https://www.foxnews.com/us/afghan-man-oklahoma-plotted-election-day-terror-attack-us-isis-justice-department-says>.

² *United States v. Tawhedi*, *supra* note 1 at 18.

³ *Id.* at 26.

⁴ *Id.*; Casiano and Spunt, *supra* note 1; John Solomon and Misty Severi, *Biden-Harris team was flagged for weak vetting of Afghan refugees, now one is charged in terror plot*, Just the News (Oct. 8, 2024), <https://justthenews.com/government/security/biden-harris-team-was-flagged-weak-vetting-afghan-refugees-now-one-charged>.

⁵ Senator Charles E. Grassley, *Watchdog Report Corroborates Grassley Oversight of DHS, FBI Failures to Properly Vet Afghan Evacuees*, NEWS RELEASES (July 1, 2024), <https://www.grassley.senate.gov/news/news-releases/watchdog-report-corroborates-grassley-oversight-of-dhs-fbi-failures-to-properly-vet-afghan-evacuees#:~:text=Watchdog%20Report%20Corroborates%20Grassley%20Oversight%20of%20DHS,%20FBI>; Senator Charles E. Grassley, *Grassley & Judiciary Committee Colleagues Introduce Bill to Protect Afghan Allies*, NEWS RELEASES (July 21, 2023), <https://www.grassley.senate.gov/news/news-releases/grassley-and-judiciary-committee-colleagues-introduce-bill-to-protect-afghan-allies>; Senator Charles E. Grassley, *Grassley Joins Thune, Risch, Colleagues to Introduce Bill to Release Afghanistan Dissent Cable*, NEWS RELEASES (May 12, 2023), <https://www.grassley.senate.gov/news/news-releases/grassley-joins-thune-risch-colleagues-to-introduce-bill-to-release-afghanistan-dissent-cable>; Senator Charles E. Grassley, *Grassley: Americans Deserve to Know How FBI Is Addressing Afghan Evacuee Vetting Failures*, NEWS RELEASES (Sep. 21, 2022), <https://www.grassley.senate.gov/news/news-releases/grassley-americans-deserve-to-know-how-fbi-is-addressing-afghan-evacuee-vetting-failures>; Senator Charles E. Grassley, *Grassley Statement on DHS Inspector General Finding Deficiencies with Vetting of Afghan Parolees*, NEWS RELEASES (Sep. 7, 2022), <https://www.grassley.senate.gov/news/news-releases/grassley-statement-on-dhs-inspector-general-finding-deficiencies-with-vetting-of>

In addition, during an August 4, 2022, Senate Judiciary Committee FBI oversight hearing, I asked you whether the FBI knows where certain flagged evacuees are located.⁶ You responded:

We have a lot of information about where people are located. I can't sit here right now and tell you that we know where all are located at any given time. That's probably true.⁷

As I noted in my August 22, 2022, letter to you, your response during the hearing did not inspire confidence that the FBI knows the exact location of at least 50 Afghan evacuees identified by the National Ground Intelligence Center (NGIC) with potentially significant security concerns.⁸ To date, you have failed to provide any meaningful update with respect to your testimony.

Additionally, on June 25, 2024, I wrote another letter to you, which also remains unanswered, noting that the FBI, on July 14, 2022, participated in a classified multi-agency briefing to congressional staff regarding Afghans evacuated and resettled in the United States.⁹ The FBI shared new information beyond the 50 individuals who were initially flagged by NGIC. Further, in my June 25 letter I highlighted a May 2024 Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of Inspector General (OIG) report titled, *DHS Has a Fragmented Process for Identifying and Resolving Derogatory Information for Operation Allies Welcome Parolees*, which corroborated my concerns about the Biden-Harris

[afghan-parolees](#); Senator Charles E. Grassley, *Senators Seek Transparency on Flagged Afghan Evacuees Amid Ongoing Concerns of Vetting, Security Failures*, NEWS RELEASES (Aug. 22, 2022), <https://www.grassley.senate.gov/news/news-releases/senators-seek-transparency-on-flagged-afghan-evacuees-amid-ongoing-concerns-of-vetting-security-failures>; Senator Charles E. Grassley, *Grassley Statement at FBI Oversight Hearing – Prepared Opening Statement by Senator Chuck Grassley of Iowa*, REMARKS (Aug. 4, 2022), <https://www.grassley.senate.gov/news/remarks/grassley-statement-at-fbi-oversight-hearing>; Senator Charles E. Grassley, *Grassley, Portman, Inhofe Demand Update from FBI on Afghan Evacuees Flagged for Security Concerns, Denounce DHS' Continued Failure to Use All Vetting Tools*, NEWS RELEASES (May 27, 2022), <https://www.grassley.senate.gov/news/news-releases/grassley-portman-inhofe-demand-update-from-fbi-on-afghan-evacuees-flagged-for-security-concerns-denounce-dhs-continued-failure-to-use-all-vetting-tools>; Senator Charles E. Grassley, *Grassley Statement on Watchdog Warnings about Deficient Vetting of Afghan Evacuees*, NEWS RELEASES (Feb. 17, 2022), <https://www.grassley.senate.gov/news/news-releases/grassley-statement-on-watchdog-warnings-about-deficient-vetting-of-afghan-evacuees>; Senator Charles E. Grassley, *Portman, Grassley, Shelby, Risch, Inhofe & Capito Request Biden Administration Provide Overdue Report on Composition & Vetting of Afghan Evacuees*, NEWS RELEASES (Dec. 22, 2021), <https://www.grassley.senate.gov/news/news-releases/portman-grassley-shelby-risch-inhofe-and-capito-request-biden-administration-provide-overdue-report-on-composition- vetting-of-afghan-evacuees>; Senator Charles E. Grassley, *State Dept. AWOL as Americans, Allies Remain Stranded in Afghanistan*, REMARKS (Oct. 28, 2021), <https://www.grassley.senate.gov/news/remarks/state-dept-awol-as-americans-allies-remain-stranded-in-afghanistan>; Senator Charles E. Grassley, *Grassley on Afghanistan Collapse through the Lens of the Inspector General – Prepared Floors Remarks by U.S. Senator Chuck Grassley of Iowa*, REMARKS (Sep. 27, 2021), <https://www.grassley.senate.gov/news/remarks/grassley-on-afghanistan-collapse-through-the-lens-of-the-inspector-general>; Senator Charles E. Grassley, *Grassley Presses Justice Dept., FBI on Terrorist Travel after Afghanistan Withdrawal*, NEWS RELEASES (Sep. 27, 2021), <https://www.grassley.senate.gov/news/news-releases/grassley-presses-justice-dept-fbi-on-terrorist-travel-after-afghanistan-withdrawal>; Senator Charles E. Grassley, *Grassley on President Biden's Afghanistan Failures – Prepared Floor Remarks by U.S. Senator Chuck Grassley of Iowa*, REMARKS (Sep. 15, 2021), <https://www.grassley.senate.gov/news/remarks/grassley-on-president-bidens-afghanistan-failures>; Senator Charles E. Grassley, *Grassley to Biden Admin: Don't Let Bad Actors Take Advantage of Chaotic Afghanistan Withdrawal*, NEWS RELEASES (Aug. 31, 2021), <https://www.grassley.senate.gov/news/news-releases/grassley-to-biden-admin-dont-let-bad-actors-take-advantage-of-chaotic-afghanistan-withdrawal>; Senator Charles E. Grassley, *Grassley Statement on Afghanistan*, NEWS RELEASES (Aug. 26, 2021), <https://www.grassley.senate.gov/news/news-releases/grassley-statement-on-afghanistan>.

⁶ Oversight of the Federal Bureau of Investigation: Hearing before the U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary, 117th Cong. (2022), <https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/committee-activity/hearings/08/04/2022/oversight-of-the-federal-bureau-of-investigation>; see also 'Does the FBI Know Where all These Flagged Evacuees Are?' Grassley Grills Wray on Afghan Refugees, FORBES BREAKING NEWS (Aug. 9, 2022), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SBm4qHn2hJA>, at 3:19.

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ Aug. 22, 2024 letter, *supra* note 5.

⁹ July 1, 2024 letter, *supra* note 5.

administration failing to properly vet Afghan evacuees.¹⁰ Of note, the report found the FBI had refused to provide DHS full access to the National Crime Information Center Interstate Identification Index (Triple I) System.¹¹ The FBI refused access to the Triple I system because, “the FBI does not consider [U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services] USCIS a criminal justice agency and deems immigration and naturalization issues as noncriminal justice matters.”¹²

Given that at one time there were at least 50 Afghan evacuees flagged as “potentially significant security concerns,” OAW parolees have been convicted of “committing crimes such as abusive sexual contact with a minor, indecent exposure, sexual assault, auto grand larceny, assault, and battery,” and now the FBI’s arrest of Tawhedi, it’s clear the Biden-Harris administration’s failure to properly vet Afghan evacuees has placed American lives at risk.¹³

So that Congress may conduct objective and independent oversight concerning the FBI’s efforts to protect the American people from potential security concerns because of the Biden-Harris administration’s failure to properly vet Afghan evacuees, provide answers to the following no later than October 24, 2024:

1. Provide a full and complete response to my June 25, 2024, letter.
2. Did any U.S. government agency, to include FBI and DHS, vet and investigate Nasir Ahmed Tawhedi before his entry into the United States? Provide a detailed description, including all dates of contact, entry, and review, and all records.¹⁴ In your answer, list each database the government used to vet and investigate Tawhedi prior to his entry into the United States.
3. Provide the dates Tawhedi was subject to any assessment, preliminary investigation, or full investigation.

Thank you for your prompt review and response. If you have any questions, please contact Tucker Akin on my Committee staff at (202) 224-0642.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on the Budget

¹⁰ DHS, Office of Inspector General, OIG-24-24, *DHS Has a Fragmented Process for Identifying and Resolving Derogatory Information for Operation Allies Welcome Parolees* (May 6, 2024), <https://www.oig.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/assets/2024-05/OIG-24-24-May24.pdf>.

¹¹ *Id.* at 12.

¹² *Id.*

¹³ Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Defense, *Evaluation of the Screening of Displaced Persons from Afghanistan* (DODIG-2022-065) (Feb. 15, 2022)

<https://www.dodig.mil/reports.html/article/2938359/evaluation-of-the-screening-of-displaced-persons-from-afghanistan-dodig-2022-065/>; see also OIG-24-24, *supra* note 9 at 10, 15; see also *United States v. Tawhedi*, *supra* note 1.

¹⁴ “Records” include any written, recorded, or graphic material of any kind, including letters, memoranda, reports, notes, electronic data (emails, email attachments, and any other electronically created or stored information), calendar entries, inter-office communications, meeting minutes, phone/voice mail or recordings/records of verbal communications, and drafts (whether they resulted in final documents).