

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

February 26, 2025

Honorable Pam Bondi  
Attorney General of The United States  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Attorney General Bondi,

**Subject: Request for details on forfeited funds from Lafarge's Conspiracy to provide material support to ISIS and why they were not awarded to U.S. servicemember families**

We write to ensure you are aware that the Department of Justice (DOJ) under the Biden Administration prosecuted the French cement company Lafarge S.A. and one of its subsidiaries, Lafarge Cement Syria S.A. (together “Lafarge”), which pled guilty in U.S. federal court to criminally conspiring to provide material support to ISIS in 2022. As part of its sentence, Lafarge forfeited to the government approximately \$687 million and paid an additional \$90 million in fines.<sup>1</sup> Subsequently, none of these funds were paid to the families who paid the ultimate price.

Numerous American servicemembers who were killed or injured by ISIS are the victims of this criminal conspiracy, through which Lafarge paid ISIS and affiliated terrorists approximately \$6 million “to enhance [its] profits and increase [its] market share.”<sup>2</sup> Lafarge’s payments to ISIS went directly to ISIS’s operations, including its acts of international terrorism that killed and injured these brave Americans. The Biden Administration had the opportunity and the clear legal authority to provide to these victims and their families compensation from Lafarge’s forfeited funds. But despite the indisputable connection between Lafarge’s actions and the deaths and injuries of American servicemembers deployed as part of Operation Inherent Resolve, the Biden Administration not only failed to remit any portion of the \$687 million in forfeited funds to the victims but failed to substantively engage with these heroes and their families at all.

Families of the fallen and injured servicemembers sought compensation, as is their right, through the submission to DOJ of petitions for remission of a portion of these funds, as authorized by law and policy.<sup>3</sup> However, their remission petitions were ignored by the Biden DOJ. While nothing can ever make these families whole, the pecuniary losses they have suffered as a direct result of Lafarge’s conspiracy with ISIS—many of the petitioners have lost their family's primary wage earner and have endured significant financial hardship—can and should be remedied.

We want to know the exact status of these funds and why they were not paid to these families as soon as possible.

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<sup>1</sup> See United States Department of Justice, Press Release, *Lafarge Pleads Guilty to Conspiring to Provide Material Support to Foreign Terrorist Organizations* (Oct. 18, 2022), available at <https://www.justice.gov/archives/opa/pr/lafarge-pleads-guilty-conspiring-provide-material-support-foreign-terrorist-organizations>.

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

<sup>3</sup> See 28 C.F.R. § 9.8 (establishing remission procedures for victims of a federal crime that results in the forfeiture of property).

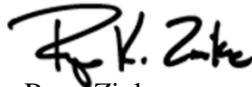
As Attorney General, you have the sole discretion to grant petitions for remission of forfeited assets to crime victims.<sup>4</sup> In addition to authorizing remission to cover victims' pecuniary losses, the Attorney General may, under the laws governing criminal forfeiture, "take any other action to protect the rights of innocent persons which is in the interest of justice."<sup>5</sup>

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I look forward to your prompt response and hope that you will ensure that justice will be no longer denied to the families of our fallen heroes.

Sincerely,



Eli Crane  
Member of Congress



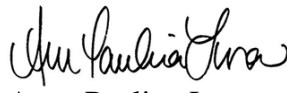
Ryan Zinke  
Member of Congress



Derrick Van Orden  
Member of Congress



Andy Ogles  
Member of Congress



Anna Paulina Luna  
Member of Congress



Tim Burchett  
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Lauren Boebert  
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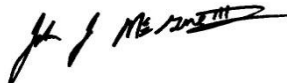
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Morgan Luttrell  
Member of Congress

Cc: Secretary of Defense Peter Hegseth  
Secretary of State Marco Rubio  
Secretary of Veterans Affairs Douglas Collins  
Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs Michael Waltz

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<sup>4</sup> See *Willis Mgmt. (Vermont), Ltd. v. United States*, 652 F.3d 236, 243 (2d Cir. 2011).

<sup>5</sup> See 21 U.S.C. § 853(i)(1).