

May 12, 2025

The Honorable Kash Patel
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
935 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20535

Via email transmission

Dear Director Patel,

We write to request information about the Federal Bureau of Investigation's ("FBI") failure to disclose critical evidence about Saudi Arabian national Omar al-Bayoumi to the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States ("9/11 Commission") and the Central Intelligence Agency ("CIA") during their investigations in the wake of the attacks. This information includes a video of Mr. al-Bayoumi filmed at the U.S. Capitol in 1999 and obtained by the FBI in the months immediately after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.¹ This information is crucial to ensuring that the families of the victims of the 9/11 attacks and the American people have a full picture of both the FBI's earlier investigations into those attacks as well as Saudi Arabia's potential involvement.

On June 20, 2024, 60 Minutes reported that a video depicting Mr. al-Bayoumi, an alleged Saudi intelligence agent, standing in front of the U.S. Capitol had been obtained by British police in a raid of Mr. al-Bayoumi's home on September 21, 2001, and was turned over to the FBI in the following months.² In the video, filmed over multiple days, Mr. al-Bayoumi referenced a "plan," identified existing security positions around the Capitol building, and noted the nearby airport.³ During the raid, British authorities also recovered a notepad containing a sketch of an airplane and a number of mathematical equations.⁴ At that time, the FBI allegedly never turned either piece of evidence over to the 9/11 Commission or the CIA, even though the 9/11 Commission

¹ Mattathias Schwartz, *Video and Airplane Sketch Raise New Questions About Saudi Ties to 9/11*, N.Y. Times (Aug. 9, 2024), <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/08/09/nyregion/sept-11-saudi-ties.html>.

² Cecilia Vega, Richard Bonin, & Mirella Brussani, *Investigators For 9/11 Families Examine Video Taken by Man with Ties to Saudi Intelligence Referencing a "Plan"*, CBS News: 60 Min. Overtime (Jun. 20, 2024, 6:30 PM EDT), <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/bayoumi-video-examined-as-september-11-evidence-60-minutes/>.

³ *Id.*

⁴ Schwartz, *supra* note 1.

investigated Mr. al-Bayoumi's role in the attacks and interviewed him in Saudi Arabia in 2003.⁵ On April 27, 2025, 60 Minutes aired a follow-up story drawing on interviews with former FBI and CIA personnel who played leading roles at the time in the 9/11 investigation that highlighted the potentially critical nature of this evidence.⁶

It is concerning that the FBI did not turn over this video and sketch to the 9/11 Commission and CIA in the months following the September 11, 2001 attacks.⁷ Former officials at both the 9/11 Commission and the CIA underscored the relevance of the evidence to their work and raised questions about whether the FBI handled the evidence properly.⁸ The FBI's failure to make this evidence available at the time may have prevented these organizations from getting a full picture of official Saudi government involvement in the 9/11 plot. The 9/11 victims' families and the American public deserve to fully understand why the FBI did not promptly provide this evidence during the investigation.

Given these revelations, we request that the FBI provide the following information by May 29, 2025:

1. What criteria did the FBI use to determine what evidence to provide to the 9/11 Commission and/or the CIA at the time?
2. Which FBI personnel were involved in determining what evidence to provide to the 9/11 Commission and/or the CIA?
3. Why was neither the video tape of Omar al-Bayoumi ("Video Tape") nor Mr. al-Bayoumi's notepad containing the airplane sketch ("Notepad") provided to the 9/11 Commission or the CIA?
4. Were the FBI officials named in response to Question 2 above aware that the Video Tape and Notepad were in the FBI's custody when the 9/11 Commission requested FBI records?
5. Please provide a detailed chain of custody for the Video Tape and the Notepad from when it was obtained by the FBI to when it was released in federal court in 2024.
6. Please provide copies of any analysis the FBI performed on the Notepad or Video Tape.
7. Please identify all other records related to Mr. al-Bayoumi obtained by the FBI, as well as whether each record was provided to the 9/11 Commission and the CIA.

⁵ *Id.*; Interview by Dietrich Shell & Philip Zelikow with Omar al-Bayoumi, in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia (Oct. 16-17, 2003), <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/2610791>.

⁶ Cecilia Vega, Aliza Chasan, Richard Bonin, & Mirella Brussani, *What 9/11 evidence unsealed in court reveals years after the attacks*, CBS News: 60 Min. Overtime (Apr. 27, 2025, 7:47 PM EDT), <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/bayoumi-september-11-evidence-60-minutes/>

⁷ Congress directed all federal agencies to furnish relevant information to the 9/11 Commission when requested by the commission. Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003, Pub. L. No. 107-306, § 605(c)(1), 116 Stat. 2383, 2411 (2002).

⁸ Schwartz, *supra* note 1.

We look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Richard Blumenthal".

RICHARD BLUMENTHAL
United States Senate

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "John Cornyn".

JOHN CORNYN
United States Senate