

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

September 26, 2013

The Honorable John Kerry
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

The Honorable James R. Clapper, Jr.
Director of National Intelligence
Office of the Director of National Intelligence
Washington, D.C. 20511

Dear Secretary Kerry and Mr. Clapper,

I write to request an investigation into the handling of Mr. Mohammad Janis Shinwari's Special Immigrant Visa (SIV). Since 2006, Mr. Shinwari has served with conspicuous valor as an Afghan interpreter for the U.S. Army, saving the life of my constituent's best friend, Army Captain Matt Zeller, among other American service members. Mr. Shinwari is marked for death by Taliban insurgents for his efforts in the U.S. Army.

Mr. Shinwari and his entire family are in acute danger because a week ago, our government suddenly revoked Mr. Shinwari's SIV. My understanding is that it is due to an anonymous tip.

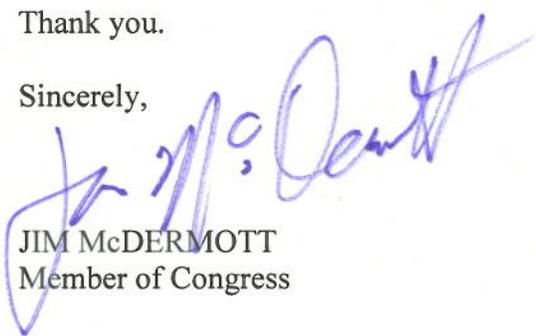
Rather than investigate the validity of the tip, simply revoking the visa says that we do not care for Mr. Shinwari and his contributions in Afghanistan. There is no other way to interpret the decision.

As a Member of Congress, I take national security seriously. But as someone who also served in the Navy, I know how much we depend on local staff to succeed in our missions abroad. Mr. Shinwari deserves to be treated with dignity. We made a promise to him and we must stand by our promise. Backing away now without doing any due diligence when we know his life is on the line is immoral.

Therefore, I urge the State Department and the intelligence apparatus to swiftly investigate Mr. Shinwari's SIV and to grant him the visa as soon as possible.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



JIM McDERMOTT
Member of Congress