



April 12, 2016

## US Security Censorship: 28 Pages with Authority vs Fairness Regarding Terrorism

For over a decade a lawsuit in support of 9/11 victim families has sought to bring a ruling against the government of Saudi Arabia. The lawsuit alleges Saudi support of some of the terrorist hijackers. A case has been built, substantially supported by the work of the US 9/11 Commission, to note material and logistical support provided by agents of Saudi Arabia for some of the hijackers who were Saudi nationals.



Withheld from the 9/11 Commission's final report were 28 pages of highly classified documents that many Commission members believe reveal evidence of Saudi complicity in the events of 9/11. For reasons unspecified, the US Government continues to resist calls for the documents to be made public. The 60 Minutes program from CBS News has recently investigated this case with the clip introducing the topic linked here.

The legal question is clear. Anyone using their current security clearance to read contents of the classified documents is under severe penalty if they reveal contents to the public. The political question is a little murkier. Some suggest the political wisdom is to not confront and offend the Saudi's with this evidence as we continue to seek their support to fight Islamic terrorism.

The ethical question is the focus of this writing. Do the people of the US and particularly the victim families of 9/11 deserve the respect and transparency of the information found in these classified 28 pages? Is it fair to censor documents that might bring some clarity and support closure in a lawsuit for victim families? The law and authority of the US Government and any wisdom to keep the documents sealed is competing with telling the full story of 9/11 and possible support for victim families in their lawsuit against Saudi Arabia.

SEE welcomes the reflection of students regarding which core values should take precedence in this case and what skills (moral and performance) would be necessary to demonstrate the skills to act out their chosen ethical values.

Link to 60 minutes report - <http://www.cbsnews.com/videos/28-pages>

Bitly short link for Youtube Intro video-- <http://bit.ly/28Pages>

Subscribe to SEE's Reasoning with Ethics blog at: [bit.ly/EthicsBlogSubscription](http://bit.ly/EthicsBlogSubscription)