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February 20, 2013

The Honorable John Kerry  
Secretary, Department of State  
2201 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Kerry:

I am writing on behalf of John Granville, a neighbor and constituent who was assassinated while working for the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in Sudan.

You may be familiar with this incident from your time on the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. John was a courageous man on a selfless mission for peace. He was a Fulbright Scholar in Africa who joined the Peace Corps to help build the first school in a rural village near Cameroon. Then he went to work for USAID trying to facilitate elections in war-torn Sudan where, on January 1, 2008, John and his driver Abdel Rahman Abbas were murdered by Islamic extremists after leaving the British Embassy in Khartoum.

The killers were arrested and convicted of murder in a Sudanese criminal court in 2009. In 2010 they escaped from prison. One has been recaptured and one is presumed dead. But two of John's killers -- Abdelbasit Alhaj Alhasan Haj Hamad and Mohamed Makawi Ibrahim Mohamed -- remain at-large. And we learned this week that the Sudanese government has granted a pardon to Mubarak Mustafa, who helped the killers escape.

This is unacceptable.

The State Department immediately issued a condemnation of Mustafa's pardon and last month authorized rewards of up to \$5 million for information leading to the capture of Hamad and or Mohamed. I appreciate these efforts and I encourage you to continue to bring the full weight of our diplomatic resources to bear to effect the repeal of Mustafa's pardon and the capture of Hamad and Mohamed. I pledge to do my part as a Member of the House of Representatives and its Committee on Foreign Affairs to support this effort in any way.

I am proud to say that the State Department has treated this matter with the urgency and respect it deserves throughout the tenures of Secretaries Rice and Clinton. I look forward to working with you to bring the remaining killers and conspirators to justice under your watch, so that the Granville family may have some measure of peace.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brian Higgins". The signature is stylized and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Brian Higgins  
Member of Congress