



Duncan Hunter
U.S. House of Representatives
50th District, California

May 2, 2014

Secretary John Kerry
United States Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Kerry:

For the last month, Andrew Tahmooressi, a twenty-five year old U.S. citizen and Marine Corps veteran who served three combat tours in Afghanistan, has been incarcerated in the La Mesa Penitentiary in Tijuana, Mexico. Andrew mistakenly crossed the U.S.-Mexico border with legal firearms in his possession and was subsequently arrested and charged for weapons trafficking.

Andrew had just moved to California from Florida, and he had his belongings in his vehicle, which included 3 legally-owned firearms. Driving southbound, he got lost, due to current road and checkpoint closures and redirected traffic, and accidentally took the final exit to the El Chaparral inspection area. Even for local motorists, this area is confusing and offers no opportunity for drivers to turnaround ahead of the checkpoint.

Andrew is neither a criminal nor a weapons trafficker, and his incarceration is an extraordinarily unfortunate occurrence. I am confident this situation can be resolved quickly through the continued attention and support of the U.S. State Department, but I remain concerned for Andrew's safety and well-being as a prisoner in Mexico. Accordingly, I ask that the State Department, as part of its ongoing efforts to secure Andrew's release, utilize the full extent of its resources to guarantee his immediate safety and protection. As you might know, Andrew was recently admitted to the prison infirmary with a reported knife wound to his neck. It is also my understanding that he is scheduled to be moved within the next week to a maximum security facility roughly forty miles outside Tijuana.

While I recognize that your focus as Secretary of State is in many different areas, it is absolutely critical that Andrew's release is achieved as soon as possible, allowing him to return home to his family. He served his country faithfully as a U.S. Marine and he is owed the same commitment by the U.S. government in return.

Thank you for your attention to this request. My office remains in contact with Andrew's family and should you need my assistance in any way, please don't hesitate to reach out to me personally.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Duncan Hunter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Duncan Hunter
Member of Congress