VFW wants U.S. Marine Released from Mexican Jail

Jun 06, 2014

WASHINGTON (June 6, 2014) — The commander-in-chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States wrote President Obama today to urge his personal involvement to get Marine Sgt. Andrew Tahmooressi released from a Mexican jail. Text from the letter by William A. Thien is below, and a PDF copy is available here.

Dear Mr. President:

I write as the national commander of the 1.9 million-member Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its Auxiliaries to once again urge your immediate action to secure the release of Marine Sgt. Andrew Tahmooressi, who languishes in a Mexican jail while Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl, a former Taliban captive who disappeared under questionable circumstances, recuperates in a U.S. Army hospital in Landstuhl, Germany.

To secure Bergdahl's release, the government broke longstanding U.S. policy to not negotiate with terrorists, yet all I asked in a letter sent Tuesday was for a simple phone call between you and Mexican President Nieto. We understand that the U.S. State Department and our embassy in Mexico are working this, but that's too much political bureaucracy. The VFW urges you to show the same sense of urgency toward Tahmooressi as you did to secure the release of Bergdahl.

A personal call from you to Mexican President Nieto can make this happen.

Respectfully,

WILLIAM A. THIEN
Commander-in-Chief

cc: Secretary of State John Kerry
U.S. Ambassador to the UN Samantha Power
U.S. Ambassador to Mexico E. Anthony Wayne

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