



Duncan Hunter  
U.S. House of Representatives  
50th District, California  
May 12, 2014

Secretary Chuck Hagel  
Department of Defense  
1000 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Hagel:

I am writing to bring to your attention the case of Andrew Tahmooressi, a U.S. citizen and Marine Corps combat veteran who is currently imprisoned in Mexico

Andrew served in the Marine Corps for four years and completed two tours in Afghanistan. He was honorably discharged in 2012 and was in the San Diego area to seek treatment for posttraumatic stress disorder. Last month, while attempting to meet some friends in a California border town, Andrew missed a final freeway turnoff and mistakenly entered Mexico. Andrew had three firearms in his car which were legally owned in the United States. Despite his explanation that he never intended to enter Mexico, Mexican authorities arrested Andrew on weapons trafficking charges.

I am aware that the Department of Defense provides significant support to the Mexican military, including training, intelligence cooperation and equipment transfers. After conferring with the nonpartisan Congressional Research Service, it was affirmed that you have the authority to suspend cooperation with the Mexican military in a number of areas. In light of the Mexican Government's incarceration of Andrew, I urge you to immediately consider suspending training and equipment assistance to Mexico until Andrew's case is resolved.

Thank you for your attention to the matter, and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Duncan Hunter". The signature is stylized and includes a large loop at the beginning.

Duncan Hunter  
Member of Congress