



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

January 7, 2019

President Donald Trump
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing today to express my dismay and strong concern for the legal matter regarding Chief Petty Officer (SEAL) Eddie Gallagher, USN. As a former Marine Officer and a combat veteran of both Iraq and Afghanistan, I completely understand and appreciate the necessity for good order and discipline. However, details and information have been brought to my personal attention that have led me to conclude that Navy Consolidated Brig Miramar is not an appropriate venue for an American war hero who has served 19 years, such as Chief Gallagher, to serve his pretrial confinement.

First and foremost, Chief Gallagher is awaiting trial and has not been found guilty of any crimes. However, for the last 18 weeks, while in pretrial confinement, Chief Gallagher has been forced into a general population which consists mostly of convicted sex offenders and pedophiles. Due to this fact, when his family members visit, he is only allowed one physical embrace with them. Reportedly his children are required to wear "hospital gowns" while they visit, so that they may not "bring unwanted attention from" any of the other inmates. This policy seems irregularly harsh for someone that has not stood trial or even charged with any sexual misconduct charges. A Navy SEAL with eight combat deployments and two Bronze Stars with Valor deserves better.

Even more concerning, Chief Gallagher's current confinement is interfering with his right to a fair and speedy trial. Due to the fact that his initial legal representation was stationed 330 miles away, he was not able to speak or meet with his attorney for eight weeks. In order for his current legal representation to meet with Chief Gallagher inside of the Brig, they first must obtain permission to enter the base and are forced to speak with their client in rooms that allegedly have cameras, guards and most likely microphones. These circumstances could directly interfere with his attorney-client privilege. Furthermore, if Chief Gallagher's legal representation requests to meet with him outside of the Brig, a painstakingly slow process must be completed with his parent command and coordinated through the Brig. This administrative process can take weeks. Without ample access to his attorneys, how could Chief Gallagher even receive a fair or speedy trial?

Thank you for your attention and leadership on this important matter. I remain available to discuss further or be of any assistance you deem necessary to address these issues.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Duncan Hunter".

Duncan Hunter
Member of Congress