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Hoekstra Statement on Osama bin Laden Tape

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Rep. Pete Hoekstra, R-Mich., the top Republican on the House Intelligence Committee, issued the following statement after reviewing an unauthenticated transcript believed to be of the latest al-Qaeda tape featuring Osama bin Laden:

“There will be much analysis and hand-wringing over the latest al-Qaeda video, but the fact remains the same: The threat to America from radical jihadists is real, and we shouldn’t need a tape from Osama bin Laden to remind us.

“Bin Laden’s rambling language and offers of a “solution” on the tape cannot erase al-Qaeda’s murderous and barbaric history. Nor does it cover the point blank solution he offers—that it is al-Qaeda’s duty to “escalate the killing and fighting against [America]” and impose Sharia law.

“Al-Qaeda has made its intention to attack the United States and our interests clear. Our best means of preventing future attacks is a robust and aggressive intelligence effort to detect and disrupt plots. That means giving our nation’s intelligence professionals the tools and authorities they need to protect our people and our homeland, such as in the recent arrests in Germany and Denmark.

“Intelligence is the first line of our nation’s defense, and this latest video tape only serves to underscore the importance of continued vigilance, not just around the anniversary of 9/11 or because of the latest al-Qaeda missive, but because it is the key to our safety.”