



For Immediate Release
July 6, 2011

Contact: Susan Phalen
(202) 225-4121

Chairman Rogers Calls Obama's Detention Policy a "Tangled Mess"

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Chairman Rogers today released the following statement regarding the Obama Administration's plan to bring Somali terrorist, Ahmed Abdulkadir Warsame to the United States and prosecute him in the U.S. criminal court system.

Chairman Rogers said, "Bringing Warsame to the United States raises serious concerns about the security of our citizens, and the protection of classified information. It suggests—incorrectly—that the full spectrum of constitutional rights and the evidentiary rules of U.S. courts should apply to foreign terrorists captured abroad.

"With Warsame's arrest we have taken an active terrorist off the battlefield. He played an active role in Al Qaeda and served as a coordinator in multiple countries with multiple terrorist organizations. Exposing an enemy combatant like this to a bigger audience in our prison system can only serve to undermine our security here at home. The Obama Administration needs to accept that it makes no sense to close Guantanamo Bay, and for the sake of our national security allow new detainees to be transferred there.

"Warsame showcases the tangled mess of the Obama Administration's detention policy and practice. The last few years of "lawfare" over detainees have created bureaucratic risk aversion that often forces us to work through other countries, which is rarely optimal, or in this case a U.S. Navy ship at sea, which is also a less than ideal arrangement.

"If the Obama Administration does not believe that the system of military commissions that Congress has created—and which the President agreed to—works for newly captured terror suspects, the Administration should propose an alternative mechanism, not just default to the use of American criminal courts, which have repeatedly proven to be ineffective in the detention and prosecution of terror suspects and the protection of classified information."

-30-

***For regular updates, join the HPSCI Facebook page at House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence or go to the HPSCI website at - <http://intelligence.house.gov/>*