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COMMITTEES:
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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3005

July 29, 2010

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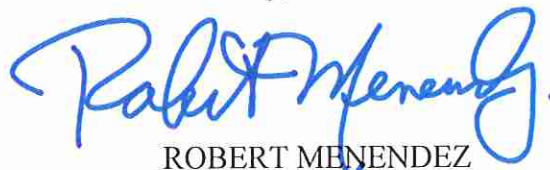
Dear Minister Salmond,

I am responding to your letter of July 26, 2010 declining my invitation to testify before the United States Senate Foreign Relations Committee to provide insights into the events that led to the early release of Abdelbaset Ali Mohmed al-Megrahi and, in particular, whether a \$900 million oil exploration deal between BP and Libya directly or indirectly influenced the decision.

I appreciate the pledge of full cooperation with our investigation by the Scottish government and your offer to respond to questions in writing. Although your letter states that there was no contact of any kind between the Scottish Government and BP, and that the Scottish Parliament's Justice Committee has already undertaken a full inquiry into the decision on compassionate release, I believe it is critical to hear from officials who were directly involved in these decisions, specifically from both Scottish Justice Minister Kenny MacAskill and Director of Health and Care Dr. Andrew Fraser, as well as other public and private entities involved in all aspects of this matter. I remain very concerned about allegations surrounding the decision to release al-Megrahi, and in particular, whether the oil exploration deal between BP and Libya directly or indirectly influenced the decision to release al-Megrahi. Since MSP MacAskill and Dr. Fraser were not available to testify on the original hearing date, we have postponed the hearing and look forward to working with them to set a new hearing date for which they would be available to testify in September.

That al-Megrahi was released and is now living out his remaining days outside of Scottish custody is not only an affront to the victims' families, it also poses a threat to our own national security. I appreciate your cooperation in this issue as we seek to review the underlying facts and circumstances leading to the release of al-Megrahi.

Sincerely,



ROBERT MENENDEZ
U.S. Senator