



State of North Carolina

OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
310 N. BLOUNT STREET, RALEIGH, NC 27546

March 18, 2024

President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.

The White House

1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW

Washington, DC 20500

Mr. President:

Last week while responding to a recent incident in Eure, North Carolina, the Gates County Sheriff's Office (GCSO) arrested Awet Hagos, following an hours-long standoff. According to the Gates County Sheriff's Office, Hagos was charged with three counts each of assault on a government official and resisting a public officer, as well as a charge of carrying a concealed weapon.

Our understanding is that this violent individual is originally from an area near Yemen, a known hot-bed of anti-American terrorist activity. Hagos entered the United States after residing in Haiti.

After the Lieutenant Governor Robinson communicated with Gates County Sheriff Ray Campbell and according to additional news reports, it has come to our attention U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) have placed a detainer on Hagos as he is reportedly on the U.S government's terrorist watch list.

Clearly, this is of grave concern not only to the people of North Carolina but to our entire nation.

This incident raises a number of serious questions that deserve to be addressed urgently.

Questions North Carolina Deserves Answers To:

- Is Hagos on the U.S. government's terrorist watch list?
- What are Hagos' suspected ties to terrorist groups and/or activities?
- Is Hagos believed to be acting alone?
- Does Hagos have any known associates, friends, or family that you believe are also here?
- Does the Federal Government know how Hagos entered the country?
By air, crossing the border or other means? What airports, trains, or highways do we know he traveled on?
- Where else did Hagos travel to, or through, in the state of North Carolina?
- When Hagos applied for and was denied American citizenship why was he not detained then?
- When Hagos applied for and was denied American citizenship, how and who locally was alerted to his whereabouts?

- Is the Federal Government aware of any other potential terrorist suspects in North Carolina – whether they have any ties to Hagos or not?

The people of North Carolina deserve answers to these questions. In North Carolina over the last few years, we have had multiple attacks on our infrastructure, including a cyberattack on a natural gas pipeline, and just over a year ago we had multiple substations that were sabotaged.

Hagos was living just an hour from multiple military bases in both North Carolina and in Virginia. If this violent individual has terrorist ties, it is imperative that we know immediately what these are, whether he has any associates here with him, and if there is any imminent danger to the citizens of North Carolina.

We are grateful to Gates County Sheriff Ray Campbell and his agency's efforts to get this dangerous individual off our streets. Our brave law enforcement officers like Sheriff Campbell and his team are a credit to the people of North Carolina and the United States. Their sacrifice and the risk they endure deserves more cooperation and information from federal agencies and officials to support their efforts.

Thank you for your attention to these urgent questions. We look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,



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CC

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