

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2003

August 18, 2004

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr President:

I was shocked to read in the August 16th issue of *Newsweek* both the identity of recently captured terrorist Muhammad Neem Noor Khan and detailed information about his role in Al Qaeda and how U.S. intelligence services were using him to find and capture other terrorists – including some in the United States.

Khan's capture was a major step in penetrating Al Qaeda's communications network. He acted as the "switchboard" that connected Osama Bin Laden to operatives all over the world.

His arrest could have been the intelligence breakthrough of a lifetime. Instead, it is a wasted opportunity. We had the man; we had the computer; we had the address book; and we were using technology to track down Al Qaeda operatives. Our ability to do this was destroyed by the release of this detailed information.

I urge you to launch an investigation to determine who gave this highly sensitive information to the media. It was an action that jeopardizes national security, the safety of our agents in the field, and our relationship with allies in the war on terrorism. Whoever provided this information must be held accountable. It is my belief that this person should be fired.

Sincerely,



Barbara A. Mikulski
United States Senator