

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****Statement of Chairman Bennie G. Thompson*****Markup: H.Res. 922, Committee Resolutions 3 & 4***

December 9, 2009 (WASHINGTON) – Today, Committee on Homeland Security Chairman Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS) delivered the following prepared remarks for the full Committee markup of H.Res. 922, Committee Resolutions 3 & 4:

“Today, the Committee will consider: a “resolution of inquiry” that Mr. King introduced regarding detainees at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba; and two resolutions to authorize the issuance of subpoenas to Mr. and Mrs. Tareq Salahi, respectively.

While I agree with the underlying goal of Mr. King’s resolution—to ensure proper notification to the Governor of each State receiving a detainee—I have some concerns with the measure, as introduced. Accordingly, I will offer an “amendment in the nature of a substitute” to H.Res. 922.

Regarding the subpoenas, at last week’s hearing, neither of the Salahis appeared before the Committee.

At the time, I stated that my door would remain open to resolve any concerns and receive any information they may want to share. Instead of taking me up on my offer, the Salahis instructed their attorneys to send a terse letter to the Committee.

In their letter, they refuse to testify in a public hearing or answer our questions in any other setting. I sought an informal opinion from the House of Representatives’ Office of General Counsel about the assertions in the letter.

The response was unequivocal—the grounds cited by the Salahis for their refusal to testify are irrelevant and have no bearing on the oversight activities of the House of Representatives.

Therefore, it is my intention that this Committee move forward with the issuance of subpoenas to secure their testimony. I expect that by January 20, 2010, which is the date the subpoenas direct them to appear, we will know whether criminal charges will be issued. “

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