Press Statement 8/22/2014 Kathy Weppner Congressional Candidate NY 26

The barbaric beheading of American journalist James Foley on youtube this week should confirm in every American exactly what we face and what we have been fighting in the Middle East.

Dozens of human heads stuck on iron fences in Syria, the headless body of a little girl held by her father....these are barbaric atrocities.

We were told by our President this enemy was decimated and on the run. Today I am releasing a timeline report containing excerpts from Congressional Testimony. The American public has been deceived. The truth about what Washington

knew and when about the Islamic State and the Levant is found in this report I am releasing today.

It is clear from these hearings that Brian Higgins knew about the Islamic State and the Levant for the last four years yet has repeatedly and publically dismissed this threat as civil wars and internal conflicts when he knew this was instead a caliphate military campaign.

Brian Higgins sits on the Foreign Affairs Committee and its subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa and the subcommittee on Terrorism, nonproliferation and Trade, and the ranking member of the subcommittee on counterterrorism and intelligence. where this testimony is drawn from

The Levant encompasses the Island of Cypress, Israel, Jordon, Lebanon, Syria, Palestine, and southern Turkey. Some of these countries possess nuclear weapons.

April of 2013 five months after President Obama declares the demise of al-Qaeda, ISIL declares "The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant."

May of 2013 Brian Higgins briefed of the worldwide threat if Syrian military grade chemical weapons fall into the hands of terrorist groups including the Islamic State Of Iraq and the Levant.

June 2013 Higgins was briefed of ongoing genocide in Syria and Iraq, of kidnapping and torture and murder of Christians and was told by experts that a true genocide was taking place. Some of these Christians were refugees from the genocide that was taking place in Iraq under our watch while our troops were there and we looked away. The American public was never told about this and the press chose not to report it.

The proof is in this report and we have been deceived.

Despite the testimony in June, three months later, in a radio interview, Mr. Higgins repeated again "The lesson in Syria, as in Iraq and Afghanistan, is that the people of those countries have to solve their own internal conflicts."

The following month the U.S. State Department issued a statement calling ISIL a transnational threat with Iraq urgently requesting helicopters and munitions. In November Mr. Higgins is briefed again of the Islamic State and the Levant and the seven countries it seeks to overtake.

Briefed again in December.

Again on January 1 2014 and three weeks later Fallujah fell to ISIL.

One week later the President dismissed ISIL as the JV team saying "I think there is a distinction between the capacity and reach of a bin Laden and a network that is actively planning major terrorist plots against the homeland versus jihadists who are engaged in various local power struggles and disputes, often sectarian."

Febuary 5th Mr Higgins is briefed on the increasing size of the ISIL forces and the "deeper, symbolic meaning for Americans." CIA Director, John Brennan warns Mr. Higgins Committee that ISIL poses a serious threat to the U.S.

June 10th, four months later Mosul violently falls to ISIL

June 11^{th,} the very next day, President Obama declares the world "less violent" and "more tolerant" than it has ever been.

June and July and August horrific barbaric violence appeared on our TV screens as ISIL continued its goal of bloody caliphate by force.

June 17th Brian Higgins gives an interview on WBFO saying this is just a Sunni vs Shia, Kurd problem in Iraq never mentioning the genocide or the goal of the Islamic State caliphate and the serious threat to our allies in those countries.

July the Washington Post declares "Even Ghengis Kahn didn't do this."

August 8th after months of slaughter President Obama announces limited airstrikes. Aug 10th Brian Higgins on WBEN again states the Islamic state expansion just common "civil wars".

Yesterday Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel stated "This is an organization that has an apocalyptic end of days vision that will eventually have to be defeated." They now have an estimated 17,000 fighters. The Presidents containment rather than defeat policy is not and will not work.

I want to challenge Mr. Higgins, now that the truth is out, to publically recognize that this is not a civil war but a caliphate move by outsiders.

He should be using his bully pulpit to loudly denounce this genocide.

Brian Higgins silence is unacceptable in the face of genocide.

We cannot afford to have a Congressman that refuses to recognize threats to America

A year ago, when Congress realized Sunni, Shia and Christians were being slaughtered by the Islamic State of Iraq we should have been forming a worldwide coalition of countries to take action against this.