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10 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
11 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

12 IN RE NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY ) No. M:06-CV-01791-VRW  
13 TELECOMMUNICATIONS RECORDS )  
LITIGATION ) **DECLARATION OF JOSEPH J.  
14 ) **BRAND, NATIONAL SECURITY  
This Document Solely Relates To: ) **AGENCY, RE: GOVERNMENT  
15 ) **DEFENDANTS' REPORT ON  
*Al-Haramain Islamic Foundation et al.* ) **DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW**********

16 *v. Obama, et al.* (07-CV-109-VRW)  
17 )  
18 )  
19 )

Honorable Vaughn R. Walker

20 I, Joseph J. Brand, declare as follows:

21 1. I am the Associate Director, Community Integration, Policy and Records for the  
22 National Security Agency (“NSA” or the “Agency”). I have been employed with NSA since  
23 2000. Prior to my NSA employment, I served as a Military Intelligence Officer in the U.S.  
24 Army for almost 29 years. Prior to my current position at NSA, I held various senior and  
25 supervisory positions, including Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Support for the NSA  
26 Signals Intelligence Directorate, where I supported signals intelligence (SIGINT) operations of  
27

28 **Declaration of Joseph J. Brand (NSA) re: Government Defendants’ Report on Declassification Review**  
***Al-Haramain et al. v. Obama et al.* (07-cv-109-VRW) (MDL06-cv-1791-VRW)**

1 NSA. While the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Support for the SIGINT Directorate, I  
2 was responsible, in addition to other duties, for protecting NSA SIGINT activities, sources and  
3 methods against unauthorized disclosures. As the Associate Director, Community Integration,  
4 Policy and Records, I am a TOP SECRET original classification authority, pursuant to Section  
5 1.3 of Executive Order 12,958, as amended. See Executive Order ("E.O.") 12,958, 60 Fed. Reg.  
6 19,825 (Apr. 17, 1995), as amended by E. O. 13,292, 68 Fed. Reg. 15,315 (Mar. 25, 2003). I am  
7 also responsible for the processing of requests made pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act  
8 ("FOIA"), 5 U.S.C. § 552, for NSA records and for asserting FOIA exemptions in the course of  
9 litigation. The statements herein are based on my personal knowledge and information made  
10 available to me in the course of my official duties.

11 2. I have been advised that the Court, by Order dated January 5, 2009, directed the  
12 Government to review various classified submissions in this action and determine whether they  
13 may be declassified. The purpose of this declaration is to provide an unclassified discussion of  
14 the current classification status of information described in the classified declarations of the  
15 Director of the NSA, LTG Keith B. Alexander dated June 21, 2006 and June 6, 2007.<sup>1/</sup> In  
16 connection with the Court's Order, I undertook a current review of the classification status of  
17 those declarations and have determined that the classified declarations and NSA information  
18 they describe is currently classified in accordance with the standards set forth in Executive Order  
19 12,958, as amended. I have executed a classified declaration, solely for the Court's *in camera*,  
20 *ex parte* review, which addresses these issues further.

### 21 ORIGIN AND MISSION OF NSA

22 3. The NSA was established by Presidential Directive in 1952 as a separately  
23 organized agency within the Department of Defense. NSA's foreign intelligence mission  
24 includes the responsibility to collect, process, analyze, produce and disseminate SIGINT  
25 information, of which communications intelligence ("COMINT") is a significant subset, for

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26  
27 <sup>1</sup> LTG Alexander's classified declaration of June 6, 2007 was filed in the Court of  
28 Appeals when this case was then pending on appeal.

1 (a) national foreign intelligence purposes, (b) counterintelligence purposes, and (c) the support  
2 of military operations. *See* E. O. 12,333, Section 1.7(c), as amended.

3 4. There are two primary reasons for gathering and analyzing foreign intelligence  
4 information. The first, and most important, is to gain the information required to direct U.S.  
5 resources as necessary to counter threats. The second reason is to obtain the information  
6 necessary to direct the foreign policy of the United States. Foreign intelligence information  
7 provided by the NSA is thus relevant to a wide range of important issues, including military  
8 order of battle; threat warnings and readiness; arms proliferation; terrorism; and foreign aspects  
9 of international narcotics trafficking.

#### 10 DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW OF NSA CLASSIFIED SUBMISSIONS

11 5. In unclassified terms, LTG Alexander's classified declarations include: (i)  
12 information regarding the Terrorist Surveillance Program ("TSP"); and (ii) information that  
13 would tend to confirm or deny whether the Plaintiffs in this action have been subject to  
14 surveillance under the Terrorist Surveillance Program. LTG Alexander's classified declarations  
15 describe the NSA information at issue in more detail. *See* [Public] Declaration of LTG Keith B.  
16 Alexander, Director National Security Agency (June 21, 2006) ¶ 7.

17 6. Based on my current review, pursuant to the standards set forth in E.O. 12,958, as  
18 amended, I have determined that LTG Alexander's classified declarations and the classified NSA  
19 information they include remain currently classified under the standards set forth in that  
20 Executive Order. *See* E.O. 12,958, Section 1.1. Under the Executive Order, information may be  
21 originally classified if the following conditions are met: (1) an original classification authority is  
22 classifying the information; (2) the information is owned by, produced by or for, or is under the  
23 control of the United States Government; (3) the information falls within one or more of the  
24 categories of information listed in section 1.4 of the Order; and (4) the original classification  
25 authority determines that the unauthorized disclosure of the information reasonably could be  
26 expected to result in damage to the national security, which includes defense against  
27 transnational terrorism, and the original classification authority is able to identify or describe the

1 damage. See E.O. 12,958, Section 1.1 (1)-(4), as amended.

2 7. As indicated above, I am an original classification authority for NSA information.  
3 I am unable to describe further on the public record the basis for my determination with respect  
4 to the particular information I reviewed in connection with responding to the Court's January 5  
5 Order without disclosing the very classified information at issue. I can state on the public record  
6 that I have determined that LTG Alexander's classified declarations and the classified NSA  
7 information they contain meet the criteria for classification as set forth in Subparagraphs (c) and  
8 (g) of Section 1.4 of E. O. 12,958, as amended, which authorizes the classification of information  
9 concerning "intelligence activities (including special activities), intelligence sources or methods,  
10 or cryptology," and "vulnerabilities or capabilities of systems, installations, infrastructures,  
11 projects, plans, or protection systems relating to national security, which includes defense  
12 against transnational terrorism." Moreover, LTG Alexander's classified declarations include  
13 information that continues to be "Sensitive Compartmented Information" ("SCI"). SCI control  
14 systems are used for information or material "concerning or derived from intelligence sources,  
15 methods, or analytical processes that requires such information to be handled within formal  
16 access control systems" established by the Director of National Intelligence ("DNI"). See 50  
17 U.S.C. § 435a(f)(5) (describing SCI information). Because of the exceptional sensitivity and  
18 vulnerability of the information, these safeguards and access requirements exceed the access  
19 standards that are normally required for information of the same classification level. I have also  
20 determined that disclosure of the NSA information at issue reasonably could be expected to  
21 result in damage to the national security of the United States. The classified submissions by  
22 LTG Alexander in this case describe the harms to national security at issue in detail. The  
23 particular level of the current classification of NSA information in the Government's  
24 submissions varies, and may be either TOP SECRET, SECRET, and CONFIDENTIAL, but the  
25 overall classification of the submissions in which that information is contained remains at the  
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1 TOP SECRET level.<sup>2/</sup>

2 8. Information is subject to declassification under the Executive Order if it no  
3 longer meets the standards for classification under the Order. See E.O. 12,958, Section 3.1(a), as  
4 amended. "Declassification" is defined in the Executive Order to mean "the authorized change  
5 in the status of information from classified information to unclassified information." See *id.* at  
6 Section 6.1(k). The classified information contained in LTG Alexander's declarations continues  
7 to meet the standards for classification under the Order because disclosure reasonably could be  
8 expected to cause harm to national security.<sup>3/</sup>

9 9. As noted above, I have executed a classified declaration, solely for the Court's *in*  
10 *camera, ex parte* review, which addresses the foregoing matters further.

11 I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

12 DATE: 27 Feb 2009

13 Joseph J. Brand  
14 JOSEPH J. BRAND  
15 National Security Agency

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21 <sup>2</sup> Under Section 1.2 of E.O. 12,958, as amended, information is classified "TOP  
22 SECRET" if disclosure of the information could reasonably be expected to cause exceptionally  
23 grave damage to the U.S. national security; "SECRET" if disclosure of the information could  
24 reasonably be expected to cause serious damage to national security; and "CONFIDENTIAL" if  
25 disclosure of the information could reasonably be expected to cause identifiable or describable  
26 damage to the U.S. national security.

27 <sup>3</sup> In addition, the classified NSA information at issue continues to be subject to Section 6  
28 of the National Security Act of 1959, Public Law No. 86-36 (codified as note to 50 U.S.C. § 402)  
("[n]othing in this Act or any other law . . . shall be construed to require the disclosure of the  
organization of any function of the National Security Agency [or] any information with respect  
to the activities thereof . . .").