

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 3, 2018

Statement by Chris Gowen, Attorney for Imran Awan

Inquiries: press@gowensilva.com; 202-380-9355 Gowen Silva & Winograd PLLC

This case illustrates the real and tragic human consequences of a right-wing media operation that today goes far beyond mere political opportunism. For the past 19 months my client, Imran Awan has been the target of a coordinated effort by House Republicans, the President, and right-wing “media” in an effort to destroy the reputation of a dedicated public servant for political purposes. Today’s plea deal resolves, in black and white, that all of the coordinated allegations were not true. My client is not a “spy,” nor part of a “spy ring.” There has never been any missing server, smashed hard drives, blackmailed members of Congress, or breach of classified information. This was all made up, for purposes of clickbait, Fox News stories, and political opportunism. And yes, this repugnant behavior went straight to the top, just weeks ago, the President of the United States tweeted again alleging that Imran was responsible for a missing Democratic Party server. Like so many irresponsible, misleading, or simply untrue tweets from the President, this allegation displayed a complete lack of respect for law enforcement. The President obviously knew from the beginning of this investigation that law enforcement was in possession of the House Democratic Server.

The fake outrage over hypotheticals posed by Tucker Carlson’s “news” website failed to show a single breach of security, any law violations or any negative outcome for this country; yet Fox News and its media children continued to peddle a story in perfect coordination with House Republicans and the President. They all knew the truth: that a small army of federal investigators and prosecutors have chased down every wild accusation and found them all to be ridiculous distortions or often wholesale inventions. Imran cooperated with the investigation for 19 months, he answered every single question law enforcement had, and turned over every document requested. With the exception of calling both his family’s house and rental property primary residences on a bank loan application, Imran has been completely exonerated today. My client regrets that error and looks forward to serving his country again in the future.

Today is the beginning of a new day for Imran, which we, his lawyers, along with so many of his friends and family, sincerely celebrate. We cannot be as optimistic about the political and media culture that had no problem destroying Imran’s life, but we urge that this deep injustice of Imran’s case be taken as a wake-up call on a worsening situation.

Paragraph 8 from Plea Agreement:

The Government agrees that, as part of its sentencing allocution, the relevant conduct for purposes of determining your client's sentence is the conduct described in the Statement of Offense.

More specifically, the Government agrees that the public allegations that your client stole U.S. House of Representatives ("House") equipment and engaged in unauthorized or illegal conduct involving House computer systems do not form the basis of any conduct relevant to the determination of the sentence in this case. The Government conducted a thorough investigation of those allegations, including interviewing approximately 40 witnesses; taking custody of the House Democratic Caucus server, along with other computers, hard drives, and electronic devices; examining those devices, including inspecting their physical condition and analyzing log-in and usage data; reviewing electronic communications between pertinent House employees; consulting with the House Office of General Counsel and House information technology personnel to access and/or collect evidence; and questioning your client during numerous voluntary interviews. The Government has uncovered no evidence that your client violated federal law with respect to the House computer systems. Particularly, the Government has found no evidence that your client illegally removed House data from the House network or from House Members' offices, stole the House Democratic Caucus Server, stole or destroyed House information technology equipment, or improperly accessed or transferred government information, including classified or sensitive information.