

# PRESS RELEASE

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## Defending The Republic Files Suit Against the Department of Defense and State Department

April 24, 2024: Defending the Republic (DTR), on behalf of its client, Mark Brugge, has filed a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) suit against the Department of Defense and the State Department, demanding these agencies hand over documents and communications relating to the August 2021 suicide bombing at Kabul's airport that killed 13 U.S. troops during the Biden Administration's botched Afghanistan withdrawal.

This lawsuit was filed just over one month after the arrest of Steven K. Nikoui during President Joe Biden's State of the Union speech. During Biden's speech, Nikoui yelled "Abbey Gate, Abbey Gate" – referencing the entrance to the Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul, where an ISIS suicide bomber "killed 13 U.S. service members and at least 170 Afghans." Nikoui's son, Marine Lance Cpl. Kareem Mae'Lee Grant Nikoui, was killed in that explosion.

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These FOIA requests seek targeted communications from a number of senior officials at the DOD and State Department, including Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin and Secretary of State Anthony Blinken, as well as a DOD report concerning the attack. You can read the complaint here: [DOWNLOAD](#). They specifically request communications relating to the bomber, Abdul Rahman Al-Logari, a terrorist known to U.S. intelligence who was imprisoned for "plotting a suicide bomb in New Delhi" before being "freed amid the chaos after Kabul fell."

The goal of these requests is to provide an understanding of internal DOD and State Department discussions relating to the bombing and the lack of security for U.S. servicemembers, and to highlight the high-level failures of Biden Administration officials that proved fatal for our troops. DTR will make these documents public upon receipt.

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