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THE LAW FIRM OF PUCKETT AND FARAJ, PC

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November 15, 2011

**Via Facsimile 216-999-6374**

The Plain Dealer  
Debra Adams Simmons, Editor  
Christopher Quinn, Deputy Managing Editor, Content and Editorial  
1801 Superior Avenue  
NE Cleveland, OHIO 44114-2198.

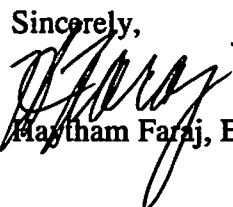
*Re: Statements regarding Congressman Kucinich alleged association and visit to Syria with Mr. Anas (Alex) Soueid*

Dear Ms. Simmons and Mr. Quinn,

I am writing to clarify the record about statements I made after a detention hearing in the case of United States v. Mr. M. Anas Soueid on October 17, 2011. Following the hearing I was approached by a reporter from the Associate Press to provide a statement. I provided a statement in which I stated that Mr. Soueid visited Syria at the same time that Congressman Kucinich visited. My statement also referred to my client, Mr. Soueid, visiting as a member of a delegation. Those statements led to news reports stating that Mr. Soueid and Congressman Kucinich were members of the same delegation and that Congressman Kucinich and he are perhaps acquainted. That is not accurate. The misstatements were a result of a misunderstanding of the facts on my part during the hearing and some assumptions made by the AP reporter when I provided a statement after the hearing.

Mr. Soueid did visit Syria as a member of a delegation at about the same time that Congressman Kucinich visited and met with Mr. Assad. Like Congressman Kucinich, his delegation asked Mr. Assad to institute democratic reforms and end the violence. The delegation that Mr. Soueid went with included members of the clergy and prominent members of the Syrian-American community. It did not include Congressman Kucinich. My lack of clarity resulted in the AP reporter writing a report that linked Congressman Kucinich to Mr. Soueid. My statements to the press were intended to draw a parallel between Congressman Kucinich's visit and Mr. Soueid's visit as part of a delegation and to demonstrate that a mere visit with a head of state should not automatically result in nefarious inferences about the purpose of the visit.

I request that you publish this letter to clarify to your readers the facts surrounding this matter.

Sincerely,  
  
Haytham Faraj, Esq.