

Interview Questions for the 12 Month Status Report on the Implementation of EO 13698

(U) Background: EO 13698, Hostage Recovery Activities, directs that the National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC) provide a Status Report on the implementation of this order. As part of this process, NCTC will be meeting with departments and agencies to discuss and review both U.S. Government and non-USG activities, structures and processes that have been developed in order to support the execution EO 13698 and PPD-30. This will reveal the progress made to date on the implementation of the structures and processes detailed within the EO and PPD-30. The below questions will be used for meetings with departments and agencies; a separate set of questions will be used during interviews with families and NGOs.

(U) These interview questions were derived from the 24 Measures of Effect (MOEs) provided in the *Plan to Provide a Status Report*. The primary purpose of the MOE is to assess progress against the implied end states and objectives by establishing trend lines and monitoring the status of implementation as reflected by the list of tasks, organized by Hostage Enterprise structure, as outlined in the EO. Therefore, there are two initial sets of questions – the first to be used with members of the HRG and the second to be used with members of the HRFC.

(U) As the 12 month Status Report will likely be organized in the same way as the Policy Review, the questions fall into four categories: U.S. Government Coordination, External Engagement, Intelligence Sharing and Collection and Policy and Legislation. While these questions have been specifically tailored for the HRFC, they also address functions of the HRG. Ultimately, these questions are meant to guide discussion; additional questions may be asked.

Interview Questions for the HRFC

Focus Areas:

A. U.S. GOVERNMENT COORDINATION

1. Has the HRFC identified and recommended appropriate, timely recovery options? Has that led to progress in freeing U.S. nationals from captivity?
2. Has the HRFC received guidance from HRG that has resulted in an improved understanding by D/As of prioritization, coordination and information sharing?
3. Has the HRFC made recommendations to relevant D/As? Has this resulted in reducing the risk of additional hostage takings and/or supporting USG efforts to achieve favorable outcomes?

B. EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT

1. What effect has implementation of the Hostage Activities EO had on engagement with families, employers and intermediaries? Have discussions with external stakeholders become more consistent?
2. Have interactions with hostage families become more standardized and collaborative (including appropriately integrating families into strategy development)?
3. Has the HRFC coordinated responses to congressional, media and other public enquiries? What effect has this had on overall communication and the ability to coordinate responses?
4. Are diplomatic engagements and proposals appropriately coordinated with the HRFC and are D/As providing relevant input and information to the Special Presidential Envoy?

C. INTELLIGENCE SHARING AND COLLECTION

1. Has information sharing and implementation protocols allowed hostage cases to be appropriately assessed, tracked, prioritized and reported to the HRG in a timely manner?
2. Has the HRFC established information protocols; have those coordination efforts and information sharing protocols resulted in improved support and assistance to hostages and their families (to include the declassification of relevant information)?
3. Have families received information on available USG and non-USG support services in a clear and consistent manner?

D. POLICY AND LEGISLATION

1. Have the approved strategies put forward by the HRFC led to demonstrated progress in the freeing of U.S. national from captivity?