

Your Honor;

I am a former covert officer of the Central Intelligence Agency. Accordingly, I submit this letter to you under the pseudonym, CIA Officer 8.

I am writing on behalf of Ms. Nada Prouty, whom I have known since 2000. To be candid, I find it unconscionable that the Federal Government is so zealously prosecuting such a dedicated American. It appears to me a case of persons putting their personal and political agendas ahead of decency and commonsense. Investigators, hungry for a counterterrorism victory in our fear-charged society, relentlessly pursued Mrs. Prouty from the beginning, thinking they had a true villain in their midst. Yet when the preposterous allegations related to threats to national security were revealed as the chimeras they had always been, the investigators, instead of admitting they were misled and wrong, continued their persecution of Mrs. Prouty, their target a conviction at any cost. For anyone even slightly familiar with the goals of the terrorist, this whole case is all too clearly a victory for them -- they have turned us on ourselves.

Admittedly such comments cross into the realm where you hold final authority to make judgments, not I. So let me at least offer some personal observations about Mrs. Prouty that rest on direct experience, not speculation. Mrs. Prouty worked for me in Baghdad during the second half of 2003 where I was serving as the senior intelligence official in Iraq. Those were bad days. The insurgency was spreading through the country, violence was spiraling upwards, and the leadership in the White House and Department of Defense were dismissing the obvious trends as insignificant. We were under-staffed and under-supported, yet the mission was all the more critical.

While many officers in the CIA were unwilling to serve in this deteriorating, high-risk and thankless environment, Mrs. Prouty did not waver. She arrived ready to work. She was relentless and provided critical operational information. It was a dynamic and unpredictable environment. Mrs. Prouty was in the streets. She was one of the few Arabic speakers I had in the country, and as a consequence she was always in demand. Mrs. Prouty's hours were endless, but she never hesitated to take up a task, in

spite of the personal risk. Through it all she exhibited exemplary professionalism.

Whatever Mrs. Prouty's alleged transgressions in obtaining citizenship, is this how we as a country should be treating someone who has worked so hard and so faithfully for our interests, for our safety at home? She is the one who has been loyal. It is we who are betraying her.

With Sincere Regards,

CIA Officer 8