

Yackley, Erdogan sees 'ulterior motives' in U.S. case against gold trader, Reuters (Sep. 25, 2016) (available at <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-turkey-us-prosecution-idUSKCN11V0FR>) ("Private broadcaster NTV quoted Erdogan as telling a group of reporters he had raised Zarrab's detention in talks with U.S. Vice President Joe Biden in New York last week. . . . Erdogan said he told Biden that Turkey's justice and economy ministries have investigated Zarrab and determined he was innocent, as had Iranian authorities. He added that he would not remain 'indifferent' to the detention of a Turkish national in the United States."). Erdogan also reportedly claimed to have accused the representatives of the U.S. Department of Justice involved in the case of having been "wined and dined" by followers of Turkish cleric Fetullah Gulen.¹ *Id.*; see also Fikret Bila, Erdogan says he asked US VP Biden about arrest of Iranian-Turkish businessman Zarrab, Hurriyet Daily News (Sep. 25, 2016) (available at <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/erdogan-says-he-asked-us-vp-biden-about-arrest-of-iranian-turkish-businessman-zarrab.aspx>).

In addition, it is this Office's understanding that approximately two weeks ago, the Turkish Minister of Justice, Bekir Bozdag—the individual to whom the defense proposes to disclose the search warrant affidavit—met with U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch and, in that meeting, accused the Zarrab prosecution of being based on no evidence and asking for Zarrab to be released from custody in the U.S. and returned to Turkey.



Finally, given the basis for the Government's opposition to the defendant's application, the Government requests that this letter be maintained under seal.

Respectfully submitted,

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¹ Though internal Turkish political disputes between Erdogan and his AKP Party and Gulen and his followers have repeatedly been raised in other contexts by the defense in this matter, those internal political disputes are entirely irrelevant to this prosecution. Moreover, Erdogan's claim that any member of the U.S. Attorney's Office involved in this prosecution has ever been hosted by or "wined and dined" by followers of Gulen are categorically false.