

DOD CONTINUES TO STALL ON KUCINICH'S REQUEST TO VISIT BRADLEY MANNING

Last we heard of Dennis Kucinich's request to visit Bradley Manning, the Pentagon had spent a full month referring his request from one official to another rather than respond to his request.

On February 4, Dennis Kucinich asked DOD to allow him to visit Bradley Manning so he could assess his conditions of confinement. On February 8, Robert Gates wrote Kucinich a short note telling him we was referring his request to Secretary of the Army, John McHugh. In a letter dated February 24—but apparently not received in Kucinich's office until March 1—McHugh told Kucinich he was referring his request to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs.

In short, a full month after the date when a member of Congress requested a visit with Manning, DOD is still stalling on a real response with bureaucratic buck-passing.

On Friday, Anti-War Radio's Scott Horton did an interview with Kucinich. Here's an update on his quest to visit an American citizen detained less than an hour from Kucinich's congressional office.

That's right. I put in a request to the Secretary of Defense who referred me to the Secretary of the Army who referred me to the Secretary of Navy who referred me to the Secretary of Defense and still not an answer on whether or not I can visit.

Kucinich goes on to note he's a member of the Oversight Committee and that under the Constitution DOD ought to be subject to some accountability.

If these reports keep coming out and they do not permit third parties to come in and make an assessment, I don't think we can take their word for it. We just can't.

Obama says DOD has assured him everything they're doing to Manning is standard. If so, then why are they fighting so hard to prevent a member of Congress from visiting him?