

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Congressman Steve King (R-IA), Ranking Member of the House Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, Refugees, Border Security and International Law, today issued the following statement after being informed that neither President Obama’s aunt, Ms. Zeituni Onyango, nor her attorney, Ms. Margaret Wong, would testify in Thursday’s hearing regarding the Executive Office for Immigration Review. Congressman King wrote Committee Chairwoman Zoe Lofgren to request that the committee formally invite either Ms. Onyango or Ms. Wong to inquire if Ms. Onyango’s blood relationship to President Obama improperly influenced the recent decision to rescind a deportation order and grant her asylum.

**“It is clear that Ms. Onyango, Ms. Wong and Chairwoman Lofgren are not comfortable discussing the merits of granting asylum in public,”** said King.

**“The indications are that the reason Ms. Onyango’s deportation order was overturned was because of her close, ‘personal’ relationship to her nephew, President Obama. Their silence on this matter speaks volumes.”**

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**“I think Americans are right to be concerned about the appearance that immigration laws are being applied on a preferential basis. Clearly, the relationship between Ms. Onyango and President Obama is very close. She is mentioned in his book, ‘Dreams of My Father’, 66 times. It would have been appropriate for Ms. Onyango or Ms. Wong to accept my invitation to publicly testify about her case in order to address the questions of impropriety.”**

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