

JOHN McCAIN
ARIZONA

CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON
ARMED SERVICES
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY
AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

United States Senate

August 3, 2015

225 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0303
(202) 224-2235

2201 EAST CAMELBACK ROAD
SUITE 115
PHOENIX, AZ 85016
(602) 952-2410

122 NORTH CORTEZ STREET
SUITE 108
PRESCOTT, AZ 86301
(928) 445-0833

407 WEST CONGRESS STREET
SUITE 103
TUCSON, AZ 85701
(520) 670-6334

TELEPHONE FOR HEARING IMPAIRED
(602) 952-0170

Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy
Moncloa Palace
Av. Puerta de Hierro, s/n,
28071 Madrid, Spain

Dear Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy:

I write to ask that you consider inviting the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to help in the investigation into the disappearance of Denise Thiem, a U.S. citizen who was last seen hiking the Camino de Santiago in Spain last April. Recently, I met with Denise's family, who remain deeply concerned about her safety and well-being. They are—not unreasonably—seeking a more robust response by the United States in the search for Denise. While I understand that there may be domestic sensitivities involved in doing so, the FBI has significant resources that it can bring to bear to aid the investigation and provide additional support to the search.

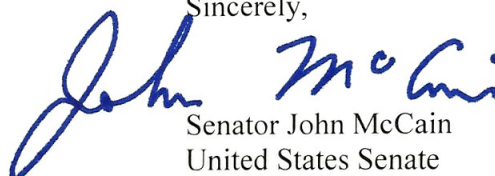
United States Ambassador James Costos has informed me that your government has devoted substantial resources and manpower to the search, for which I am deeply grateful. I am also aware of regular communications between the U.S. Embassy in Spain and the Spanish National Police on this case, and I am encouraged that our two governments appear to be cooperating to locate this missing woman.

However, recent media reports suggest that a crime may have been committed against Ms. Thiem and that the investigation has been elevated to a homicide division within the Spanish National Police. If true, the FBI's participation would be warranted and should be combined with a more robust response by the United States, which has an obligation to do all it can to help locate U.S. citizens missing abroad.

For these reasons, I ask that you evaluate this case and determine whether resources and expertise provided by the FBI could prove helpful to the Spanish National Police's efforts. If you do, I urge you to request the FBI's immediate assistance. I also respectfully ask that you inform me of your decision. Through close collaboration between our two governments, we can encourage continuing efforts, maximize available resources and raise public awareness to locate Ms. Thiem.

Thank you for consideration of my request and devoting the appropriate resources to the search. I am grateful to you for your leadership and your continued support of the investigation.

Sincerely,



Senator John McCain
United States Senate