



# Unravelling the New World Order

*An Exposé of How Government, Religious, and Financial Insiders  
Are Deciding Your Future*

Volume XVIII, No. 9

October 2011

## **TIME TO SHUT DOWN THE ATF? Subpoenas Issued to Eric Holder and Other DOJ Officials**

by UNWO Editors

On October 12, the chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, Rep. Darrell Issa (R-CA) made good on his promise to issue subpoenas to Attorney General Eric Holder and other high-ranking Justice Department officials, saying, *“It’s time we know the whole truth about the so-called ‘Fast and Furious’ gun trafficking operation.”*

*“Top Justice Department officials, including Attorney General Holder, know more about Operation Fast and Furious than they have publicly acknowledged,”* Issa said in a statement released by his committee. *“The documents this subpoena demands will provide answers to questions that Justice Officials have tried to avoid since this investigation began eight months ago.”*

Readers will recall that this publication, along with our broadcasting entity, IRN/USA NEWS, dealt at length with the “Fast & Furious” gun-walking scandal back in the spring of this year (See “ATF/DOJ Scandal Goes to Highest Levels of U.S. Government,” May 2011 issue of *Unravelling The New World Order*). In that same issue, we also published an extensive, heavily- documented report on the subject, compiled by Gun Owners of America (“GOA Calls for House Investigation into ‘Project Gunrunner’”) published at [www.gunowners.org](http://www.gunowners.org), Feb. 23, 2011.

The subject of the Issa hearings is an operation spawned by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (BATFE, or more commonly, ATF) begun under the Bush administration and originally known as “Operation Gunrunner.” The original purpose was to “monitor illicit gun sales in the southwest,” in order to “track down the smuggling rings delivering guns to the drug cartels.” That operation was repackaged in October 2009 under the Obama administration as “Fast & Furious.”

Early in 2010, Attorney General Eric Holder announced to reporters that “a flood of guns” was moving south to Mexico, and that U.S. gun shops were the source of these guns. A barrage of comment followed in the liberal media, laying blame at the feet of U.S. gun manufacturers and gun shops for the escalating violence in Mexico and along our southern border. Today, however, it is clear that the biggest arms supplier was the ATF itself, for having intentionally allowed between 2,500 and 3,000 weapons to be smuggled (“walked”) into Mexico.

When U.S. Border Patrol Agent Brian Terry was killed in December 2010 by Mexican drug traffickers just 10 miles north of the Arizona/Mexico border, some rank and file ATF agents were sickened at the realization that a perverse deviation from the original Gunrunner program had likely resulted in Terry’s death. The source of the gun used to kill Terry was traced to a gun store in Phoenix that was cooperating at the time with the ATF’s “Fast & Furious” gun-walking program.

These agents, who had seen the perverted ATF operation first-hand, began to share their information with new media organizations such as *National Gun Rights Examiner* and the *Sipsey Street Irregulars* blog.

By May 2011, it was becoming clear that the unstated objective of Fast & Furious had been to move thousands of guns with American serial numbers into Mexico. This would bolster the argument by anti-gunners in the federal

government that greedy American gun sellers were flooding Mexico with guns—and that draconian gun controls were necessary to stop the carnage.

News reports have disclosed that many gun stores in the Southwest had suspicions about certain buyers, but these gun dealers were told to go ahead and let the sales take place.

The grim bottom line? Some 2,500 guns have turned up in Mexico, “walked” in by *Fast and Furious*; and some 150 people have been murdered by criminals using these smuggled firearms. Two of the deceased were U.S. federal agents.

### **What Have the Hearings Uncovered?**

The congressional hearings that began in May this year, conducted by Rep. Darrell Issa and the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, have revealed:

- BATFE (most often referred to as ATF) knowingly allowed as many as 2,500 firearms to be sold illegally to known or suspected straw purchasers. One of those purchasers accounted for over 700 illegal guns.
- BATFE ordered its agents working the program not to arrest illegal gun buyers or to interdict thousands of guns that were allowed to “walk” into criminal hands, both in the U.S. and in Mexico.
- Senior BATFE officials in Washington were regularly briefed on the operation and approved of the tactics employed.
- BATFE agents who opposed the operation and who raised objections were told to “get with the program” and threatened with job retaliation if they continued their opposition.

Other testimony established that U.S. gun dealers regularly cooperate with law enforcement and are a crucial ally in fighting gun traffickers. This is in stark contrast to the position, long held by anti-gun politicians, that U.S. gun stores are complicit with criminal gun trafficking.

Overall, the witness statements and the findings of the staff report paint a horrifying picture of a federal government operation that intentionally allowed thousands of guns to end up in the hands of some of the most violent criminals in North America. It also established that senior officials of the BATFE—not just regional or field supervisors—approved of the operation and received regular reports on its progress.

Testimony before the Committee further indicated that the level of violence in the southwest border region, and the escalating threat from vicious drug cartels to law enforcement and private citizens—both in the U.S. and in Mexico—is attributable to the failure of BATFE leadership to conduct its law enforcement duties in a responsible manner and to heed the warnings and objections of field agents.

From the time this reckless operation became known, the Department of Justice has refused to fully respond to congressional inquiries. Both Committee Chairman Darrell Issa and Sen. Chuck Grassley, ranking member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, have repeatedly requested full disclosure and have been rebuffed or ignored. Chairman Issa has pointed out that much of what was provided by the DOJ was heavily redacted, with most of the key information blacked out. After nearly six months, Eric Holder’s DOJ continues to stonewall.

Larry Pratt, Executive Director of Gun Owners of America, had this comment:

*“ATF has a long history of death and destruction. Waco was never adequately addressed at the time. Indeed, ATF got a bigger budget the next year. We have to thank the agents who had the courage and integrity to blow the whistle on the [Fast & Furious] corruption being fostered by their superiors. But this is only the tip of the iceberg. The Constitution allows no room for gun control, which is why this agency needs to be done away with and the managers of Fast and Furious (and those who signed off on it in the upper echelons of the Justice Department) need to go to jail.”*

### **Sources:**

Gun Owners of America, Special Report: “GOA Calls for House Investigation into ‘Project Gunrunner,’” February 23, 2011, [www.gunowners.org](http://www.gunowners.org).

Gun Owners of America, “It’s Time to Close Down the ATF!” by Larry Pratt, Executive Director. Published at [www.gunowners.org](http://www.gunowners.org), June 25, 2011.

National Rifle Association Institute for Legislative Action, “Hearing On ‘Fast and Furious’ Uncovers Serious Failure at BATFE, published at [www.nraila.org](http://www.nraila.org), 6/17/11.