

# Wayne Allard

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## **SENATORS ALLARD, SALAZAR MEET WITH UAE AMBASSADOR TO REVIEW CASE OF TWO COLORADANS BEING HELD IN MIDEAST**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Colorado’s U.S. Senators Wayne Allard and Ken Salazar met Thursday with United Arab Emirates (UAE) Ambassador to the United States Al Asri Saeed Ahmed Al Dhahri to discuss the status of two Steamboat Springs, Colorado men who have been forbidden to leave the UAE for nearly four months.

The men, Jonathan Coles and Steve Rakowski, were working for a Colorado-based mapping company when UAE authorities seized their equipment and put them under house arrest.

“We emphasized to the ambassador how important it is that this situation be moved along,” Senator Allard said. “The UAE government is now very aware of how closely Congress and the U.S. government are watching the treatment of these two Americans.”

Senator Salazar said, “I appreciated the Ambassador coming to meet with us. I am confident he now understands how important I see the resolution of this issue and what it means to these Coloradans and their families. He assured me he would provide me with additional information. I will hold him to that.”

“While we understand that a full investigation of the circumstances is expected, the fact that months have gone by without any resolution of their situation is extremely troubling,” Senator Allard said. “The ambassador pledge to keep us regularly informed, and he will let us know what the next steps are his government plans to take.”

“We are committed to working together to finding a solution – and to bringing these men home,” Senator Allard said.

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