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## **Brown Renews Call for Congressman Doolittle To Give Back “Wages of Sin” in Wake of Mariana Island Disclosures**

*Doolittle tolerated forced abortions, sex slavery and sweatshops*

ROSEVILLE: Press disclosures of public documents show that Congressman John Doolittle worked at the behest of convicted Congressional briber Jack Abramoff in the Northern Marianas Islands (CNMI). Specifically, Doolittle helped install leaders that awarded Abramoff a lucrative lobbying contract, and opposed efforts to impose U.S. Immigration and wage laws on the territories despite wide reports of sweatshop garment factories, sex slavery, and forced abortions.

The disclosure prompted CA-04 Congressional candidate Charlie Brown to challenge Doolittle once again to return the “dirty money” Doolittle received from Abramoff. “There’s a human impact to John Doolittle’s corruption—and it can be seen in the prison-like conditions endured by thousands of workers—many of them women—on the Mariana Islands.”

A *Sacramento Bee* article published on Saturday, August 5<sup>th</sup> detailed Doolittle’s work to help Abramoff install leaders who tolerated forced abortions, sex slavery and sweatshops. Doolittle wrote letters in support of Benigne Fitial, a local politician who helped the convicted lobbyist win back an extremely lucrative lobbying contract for CNMI, and has helped to deliver millions in U.S. tax dollars to the CNMI government as a member of the House Appropriations committee.

From 1995 until the present day, at least 29 bills have been introduced to address abuses on the Islands by lawmakers on both sides of the aisle. John Doolittle has consistently opposed these efforts. In a January 31, 2002 e-mail, Jack Abramoff referred to John Doolittle as “a hero” for the CNMI.

“John Doolittle needs to explain why he would champion the cause of appropriating U.S. Tax dollars to a government that tolerates such appalling human rights abuses,” Brown said.

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands is a U.S. territory east of the Philippines. The CNMI’s garment industry, backed by the powerful Tan family of China, has been criticized for its sweatshop working conditions, forcing factory women into prostitution and then forced abortions if they became pregnant. As a U.S. territory, CNMI products can carry the “made in America” label without having to adopt U.S. labor practices or wages. Abramoff made over \$7.7 million from contracts with the government of CNMI.

“The Congressman should immediately return all of the ‘wages of sin’ donated to him by Jack Abramoff, and his associates,” Brown said. “In fact, given his complicit negligence in the Marianas, he should give away the money to an international charity that addresses the kinds of abuses taking place in CNMI.”

John Doolittle is the only Member of Congress to be involved in both the Jack Abramoff and Duke Cunningham Congressional bribery scandals. Doolittle has taken over \$140,000 dollars from Abramoff and his associates and over \$85,000 from conspirators in the “Duke” Cunningham conviction.

More on CNMI: [SacBee](#), [MSMagazine](#).

*Charlie Brown, Lt. Col. Ret spent 26 years in the U.S. Air Force. He served as a rescue helicopter pilot at the end of the Vietnam War, and has flown reconnaissance missions in support of military operations around the world. He is also a credentialed California teacher, former professional staff-member at the Roseville Police Department, and Democratic Nominee for Congress in California’s 4<sup>th</sup> District*

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