

For Immediate Release Tuesday, January 19, 2016 Contact: Alex Burgos 202-224-3041

RUBIO COMMENTS ON THE ISIS-CONFIRMED DEATH OF "JIHADI JOHN", RESPONSIBLE FOR DEATH OF FLORIDA'S STEVEN SOTLOFF

Washington, **D.C.** – U.S. Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) today issued the following statement regarding the <u>ISIS-confirmed death</u> of Mohammed Emwazi, or "Jihadi John":

"The brutality of ISIS over the last year and a half has shocked the world. We have seen mass slaughter, unspeakable atrocities and genocide committed against the Christian and Yazidi communities because of their religious beliefs. We've also mourned the losses of several of our fellow Americans who had done nothing more than attempt to report on the plight of others or assist in easing their suffering.

"The battle against ISIS still has a long way to go, but I am encouraged by mounting reports that Mohammed Emwazi, also known as 'Jihadi John,' has been killed. Emwazi participated in the brutal murder of several Americans, including a Floridian, Steven Sotloff.

"Steven lived in Miami with his family, just blocks from where I currently live. He was a member of our community and is sorely missed. Steven had dedicated his life to revealing the suffering and the reality of what was happening in some of the most dangerous areas of the world. As I said at Steven's memorial service, he chose not just to be a journalist but one to report where horrible things happen. It was to bring to us stories about the people who were suffering unbelievable acts. Evil is still here. It has a different name but it's still here, and he unmasked it.

"My thoughts and prayers remain with Steven's family and the families of all those who were killed by Emwazi. I hope the knowledge that he will not be able to continue his atrocities will bring some measure of comfort.

"I would also like to thank the brave men and women of our military and intelligence community whose hard work provided the information that led to the extermination of this ruthless murderer. We need to ramp up our fight to ensure these brutal extremists are eliminated."