

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

March 1, 2012

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BOXER CALLS ON BBG COMMUNICATIONS TO END EXORBITANT PAY PHONE CHARGES FOR DEPLOYED TROOPS

One Three-Second Call Cost One Soldier \$41

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA) today called on the president of BBG Communications to stop charging exorbitant sums for service members to use BBG pay phones at the Leipzig/Halle Airport in Germany.

Many military charters carrying troops on their way to combat zones stop at Leipzig to refuel. In the secure area of the airport, a bank of pay phones is available, which service members often use to call their loved ones in the U.S. According to a [report](#) by NBC News, the charges for these calls are exorbitant. A three-second phone call cost one soldier \$41. Other troops reported similarly steep charges.

In her letter, Senator Boxer wrote, **“Seeking financial gain on the backs of our military men and women and their families, who make such great sacrifices, is wrong. No service member on deployment should face such excessive charges simply to talk to their loved ones.”**

The full text of the Senator’s letter is below:

March 1, 2012

Gregorio Galicot

President

BBG Communications
1658 Gailes Boulevard
San Diego, CA 92154

Dear Mr. Galicot:

I write to you about the disturbing results of an investigation conducted by NBC News which found that American service members are being charged excessive fees for phone calls placed from BBG pay phones during layovers at the Leipzig/Halle Airport in Germany.

Military charters carrying troops on their way to combat zones often stop at Leipzig to refuel. When service members deplane they are kept in a secure area with access to a bank of pay phones. Many take the opportunity to call their loved ones back in the States, completely unaware that a brief phone call will cost them an exorbitant sum. In fact, according to the NBC report, one three-second phone call cost the soldier who placed it \$41. Other troops reported similarly steep charges.

Not only are the charges excessive, but the pay phones do not accept the prepaid calling cards that many service members carry with them. Additionally, there is no notice posted near the phone bank alerting potential users to charges they face for making an international phone call.

Seeking financial gain on the backs of our military men and women and their families, who make such great sacrifices, is wrong. No service member on deployment should face such excessive charges simply to talk to their loved ones.

I urge you to end this deceptive practice at the Leipzig/Halle Airport immediately.

Sincerely,

Barbara Boxer

United States Senator

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