

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 18, 2010

The Honorable Don Pramudwinai
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
of the Kingdom of Thailand to
the United States of America
1024 Wisconsin Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20007

Ambassador Don:

We write to you on an issue of central importance to U.S.-Thai relations. As you know, a Thai appeals court has been considering a U.S. request to extradite notorious international arms dealer Viktor Bout to face terrorism charges, which have been pending since March 2008. It has been reported that the appeals court will make its final ruling on August 20, 2010.

While respecting Thai sovereignty, we believe that the United States was well within bounds to insist upon a fair and transparent legal proceeding in this case. Regrettably, it has not been one. The Thai appeals process has been extremely opaque. Indeed, it was only through Viktor Bout's lawyers and the Russian press that the United States learned of the upcoming final ruling. Further complicating matters, Thai authorities have not yet responded to additional charges against Bout of money laundering, wire fraud and the violation of sanctions, unsealed in the United States six months ago.

We find the potential release of a man responsible for countless deaths of innocents in Africa and elsewhere simply astounding. More so as there is little doubt that he would return to his deadly trade, arming those targeting U.S. *and* Thai interests around the globe.

We celebrated the close cooperation between U.S. authorities and the Royal Thai Police that resulted in Viktor Bout's arrest. So it especially pains us to say that the lack of coordination surrounding Viktor Bout's legal case is unfitting of a "major non-NATO ally," a designation granted Thailand in 2003. Thank you in advance for communicating the negative impact on U.S.-Thai relations that Bout's release would have to the appropriate authorities in Bangkok.

Sincerely,



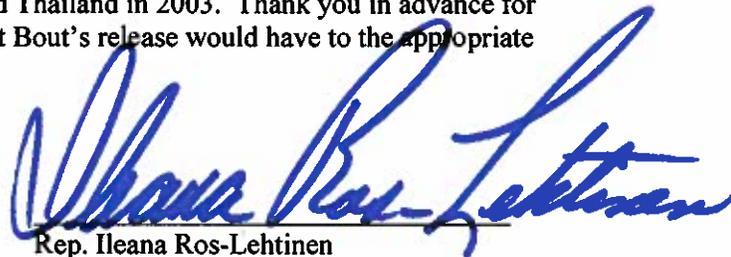
Rep. Howard Berman
Chairman
House Foreign Affairs Committee



Rep. Ed Royce
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on
Terrorism, Nonproliferation and Trade



Senator Russ Feingold
Chairman, Senate Subcommittee on
African Affairs



Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Ranking Member
House Foreign Affairs Committee



Rep. Brad Sherman
Chairman, Subcommittee on
Terrorism, Nonproliferation and Trade



Rep. Frank Wolf
Ranking Member, Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science