

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

July 14, 2009

The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Clinton,

We are writing to express our serious concern about the continuing massacres and abductions being carried out by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in central Africa and to request increased U.S. leadership to protect civilians from these atrocities. As you know, last month, a bipartisan group of Senators and Representatives introduced the *Lord's Resistance Army Disarmament and Northern Uganda Recovery Act of 2009* (S.1067, H.R.2478), which similarly aims to spur U.S. leadership to help end the LRA's terror.

Recent attempts to achieve a negotiated end to the violence collapsed when LRA leader Joseph Kony refused to sign a final peace agreement. A subsequent military operation conducted by regional militaries, with some backing from the United States, was launched in December 2008 against the LRA's bases in northeastern Congo but failed to apprehend Kony. Tragically, over the following two months, Kony's forces attacked civilians in the region, leaving over 900 people dead. In one coordinated attack, the LRA brutally massacred more than 200 Congolese civilians gathered for celebrations on Christmas Day.

We believe that ending this continued violence against civilians should be an urgent priority for the United States. We urge you to devote U.S. resources and diplomatic leadership to improve protection of civilians who are vulnerable to LRA attacks and to support viable efforts to apprehend Joseph Kony, whose leadership is vital to the LRA's survival. Apprehending Kony would likely lead to the dissolution of the LRA, enable hundreds of children in LRA captivity to return home, and facilitate significant progress toward stabilizing and rebuilding war-affected regions. Increased leadership from the United States is crucial if any such efforts to end LRA violence are to succeed.

To that end, we write to ask how you and the Obama administration plan to work with partners in the United Nations, the international community, and affected countries to improve civilian protection and stop Joseph Kony. Is there currently an interagency process underway to ensure U.S. involvement in addressing the LRA threat is effectively coordinated? Moreover, what precautions are being made to ensure the failures of recent military operations are not repeated and that civilian protection is being prioritized?

Such action should take place in conjunction with increased diplomacy to address the regional dimensions of the crisis. We are particularly concerned with the potentially disruptive role of the government of Sudan in Khartoum, who previously supplied the LRA, and with the impact of LRA attacks on Sudan's tenuous north-south peace process.

U.S. leadership on this issue has the potential to help protect millions of civilians from further violence and to advance our country's core interests in stability and development for this troubled region of Africa. We thank you for your attention to this matter and look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,



James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



Edward R. Royce  
Member of Congress



Howard L. Berman  
Member of Congress



Ileana Ros-Lehtinen  
Member of Congress



Donald M. Payne  
Member of Congress



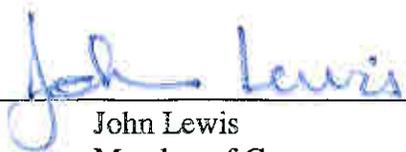
Christopher H. Smith  
Member of Congress



Michael E. Capuano  
Member of Congress



Frank R. Wolf  
Member of Congress



John Lewis  
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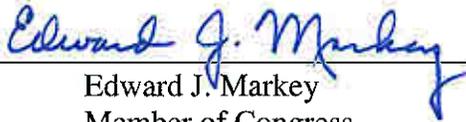
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Rosa L. DeLauro  
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Mac Thornberry  
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Edward J. Markey  
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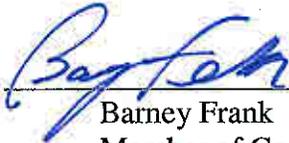
Patrick J. Tiberi  
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James L. Oberstar  
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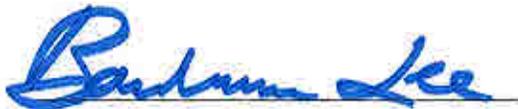
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Jerry Moran  
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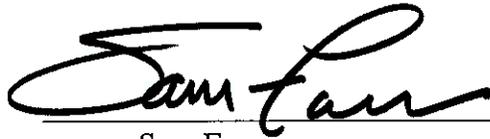
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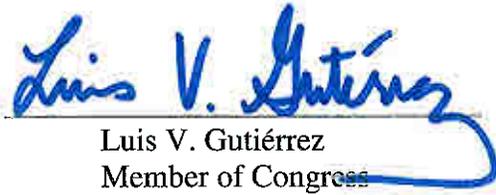
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Janice D. Schakowsky  
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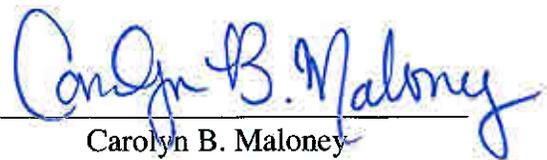
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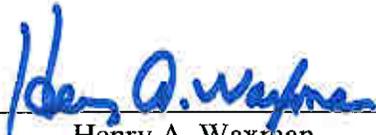
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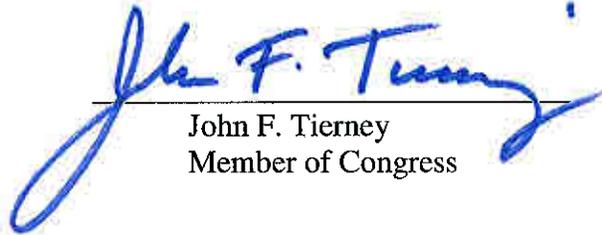
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Donna F. Edwards  
Member of Congress



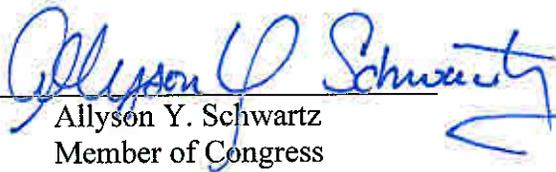
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Member of Congress



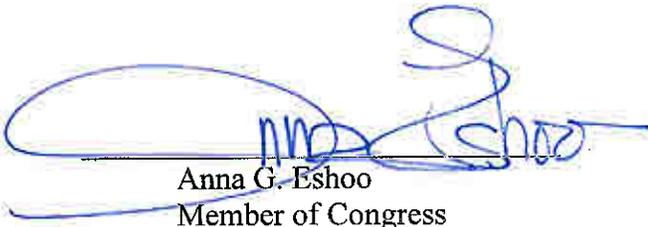
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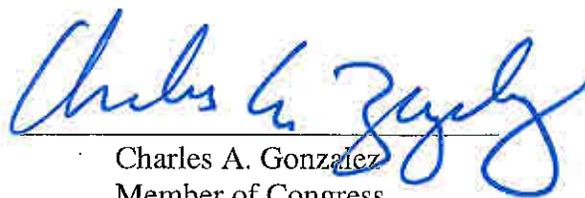
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