

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 31, 2007

The Honorable George W. Bush
President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Bush:

We are writing to urge you to appoint a special envoy for Sri Lanka because we are deeply troubled by the ever-worsening situation on the ground there. The renewed violence and rising death toll in Sri Lanka have overtaken the fragile peace process and threaten a return to open civil war. Further, we are troubled by the large increase in kidnappings across Sri Lanka, most of which remain unsolved.

In the wake of the deadly 2004 tsunami you wrote in a condolence book for the Sri Lankan victims that, "the American government and American people are dedicated to helping you recover." Mr. President, the people of Sri Lanka need the help of America now not only to continue their recovery, but to restore peace to their country.

As you know, the government of Sri Lanka has reported that at least 3,400 people have been killed over the course of the last year. Further, news reports indicate that recent heavy fighting has resulted in hundreds of deaths and the displacement of more than 200,000 people in Sri Lanka. We applaud your December 15, 2006, Memorandum for the Secretary of State that instructed her to make available up to \$5.215 million for "unexpected and urgent refugee and migration needs resulting from the conflicts in Somalia and Sri Lanka." You clearly understand that the situation in Sri Lanka is untenable and must be addressed.

Naming a special envoy for Sri Lanka would further emphasize our government's commitment to fostering a lasting peace. It is essential that the U.S. envoy be a high-level official with access to you and Secretary of State Rice. The envoy's mandate should be clear and must include efforts to increase monitoring of human rights violations.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights stated in September that "there is an urgent need for the international community to monitor the unfolding human rights situation." Additionally, the International Crisis Group's recent report makes clear that "Sri Lanka more than ever before needs international engagement that is critical and sustained, focusing above all on immediate human rights and humanitarian concerns but with a longer-term political view that seeks to renew a peace process taking into account the full complexity of the conflict."

It is time for the United States to provide global leadership to help advance peace for the people of Sri Lanka. The citizens of Sri Lanka have endured violence and civil war for too long. America must do everything she can to foster a lasting peace for the country. Again, we request that you appoint a special envoy for Sri Lanka to help bring peace to the country.

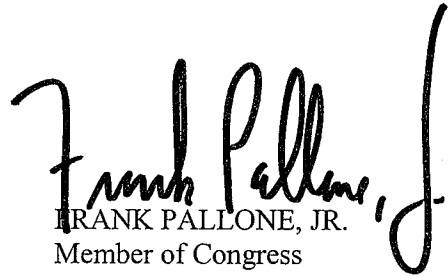
Sincerely,



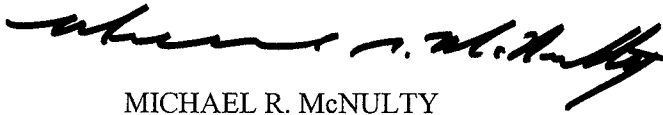
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Member of Congress



FRANK PALLONE, JR.
Member of Congress



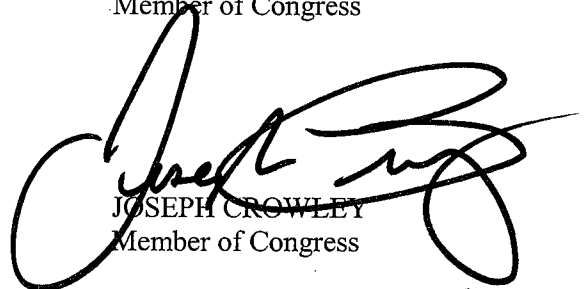
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DAVID E. PRICE
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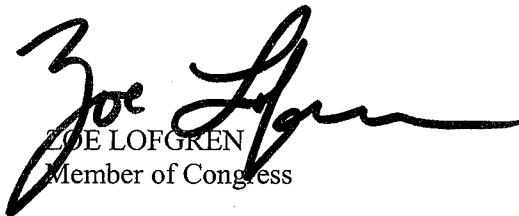
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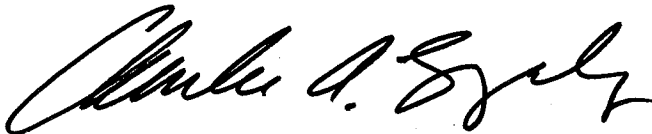
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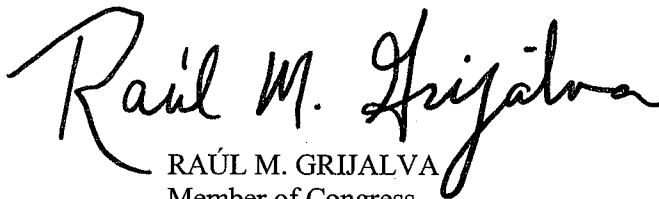
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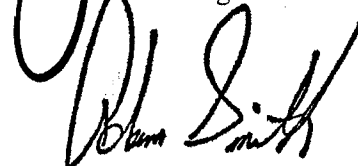
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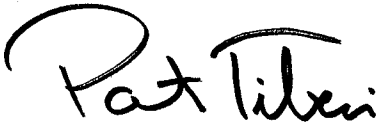
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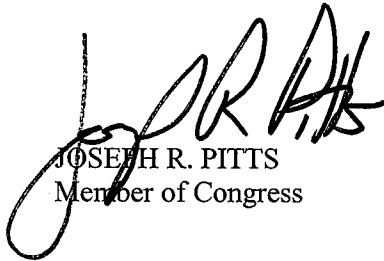
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