

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 2, 2015

His Excellency Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General of the United Nations
New York, NY 10017

Dear Mr. Secretary-General:

As Members of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, we are writing to express our deep concern over Hezbollah's attack in Israel last week. On January 28th, Hezbollah terrorists fired anti-tank missiles into Israel, gravely injuring several members of the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) and resulting in the death of at least two other members of the IDF and a UNIFIL peacekeeper. The violence in the area caused by Hezbollah is horrific, and it results from the failure of the United Nations (UN) to enforce Security Council Resolutions 1559 and 1701. It is incumbent upon the UN and the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) to ensure that Hezbollah, a terrorist organization dedicated to the destruction of Israel and its allies, does not continue to rearm and initiate violence against Israel.

IDF officials have reported that Hezbollah could have, astoundingly, as many as 100,000 missiles and rockets in its arsenal by next year. Iran's semi-official Fars news agency claimed that new missiles delivered were "Fateh" missiles with a range of 250-350 Kilometers and capable of carrying a 500kg warhead. Both the quantity and quality of missiles possessed by Hezbollah could threaten to overwhelm Israel's missile defense system, precipitating a swift reaction to neutralize the missile threat, and causing significant casualties on both sides.

UN Security Council Resolution 1559 called for the "disbanding and disarmament of all Lebanese and non-Lebanese militias." Failure to enforce this resolution led Hezbollah to successfully build up its military arsenal and fire 4,000 rockets into Israel during the 2006 War. UN Security Council Resolution 1701 states that "no sales or supply of arms and related material to Lebanon except as authorized by its Government." Hezbollah has now built up its rocket arsenal far beyond the levels seen in 2006.

Resolution 1701 also calls for the "establishment between the Blue Line and the Litani river of an area free of any armed personnel, assets and weapons other than those of the Government of Lebanon and of UNIFIL." Israel fully withdrew its forces in 2006 based on the commitments in Resolution 1701, and has remained fully compliant with Resolution 1701. The unchecked, massive buildup of Hezbollah forces in Southern Lebanon is a direct violation of Resolution 1701. UNIFIL's inability to enforce Resolution 1701, especially in light of Israel's full withdrawal from that territory, represents a huge failure for the UN system and will only lead to further destabilization and armed conflict.

Hezbollah has been working with its patron Iran to prop up the brutal Assad regime. Thousands of Hezbollah fighters are now battle hardened as a result of their experiences fighting in Syria. The situation in Southern Lebanon is significantly more dangerous now than in 2006, making any future confrontation more costly. Given the recent violence, inaction by the UN in

Southern Lebanon sends a dangerous message regarding the resolve of the international community to uphold its commitments.

The cost of continued inaction on this issue will be catastrophic. Hezbollah cannot be permitted to have an arsenal of 100,000 rockets and missiles, including Iranian-supplied advanced "Fateh" missiles, located south of the Litani River along the border with Israel; and it cannot be permitted to defy international law at will. This slide to violence must be stopped, and the international community must fully enforce these critically important UN Security Council Resolutions. We would appreciate if you would provide us details as to 1) how the UN and UNIFIL will increase cooperation with the LAF in pursuing compliance with Security Council Resolutions 1559 and 1701; and 2) what steps the UN and UNIFIL will take independent of the LAF to respond to the violence and rearming of Hezbollah.

Respectfully,



GRACE MENG
Member of Congress



MARK MEADOWS
Member of Congress



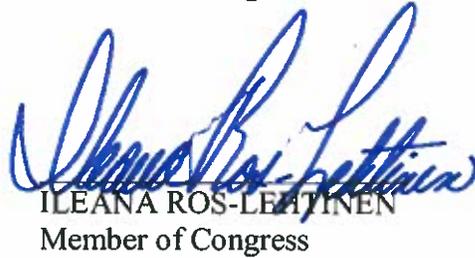
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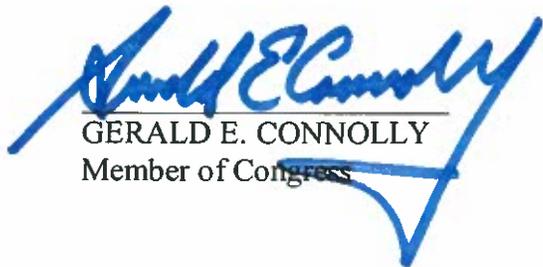
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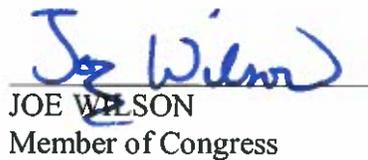
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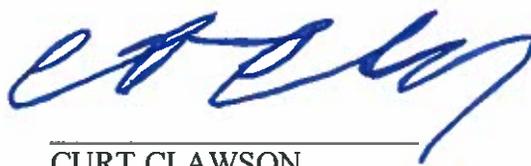
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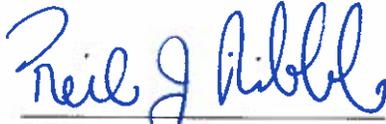
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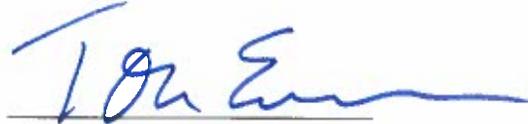
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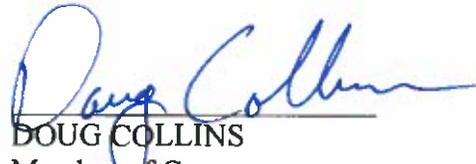
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