



# Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

July 30, 2004

H.E. Kofi Annan  
Secretary-General  
United Nations  
New York, New York 10017

Dear Mr. Secretary-General:

We are writing to commend your June 21st remarks condemning anti-Semitism at the United Nations' "Confronting Anti-Semitism" seminar – the inaugural event in the Public Information Department's Unlearning Intolerance series.

With the alarming rise in attacks against Jews and Jewish institutions in Europe and the proliferation of Holocaust denial and anti-Semitic incitement in the Arab and Muslim world, the attention of the United Nations is sorely needed. Your disavowal of those who misuse the Middle East conflict to incite hatred against Jews gets to the heart of the new manifestation of anti-Semitism facing Jews today.

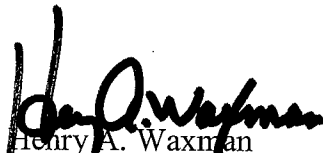
As you mentioned in your presentation, the United Nations and the adoption of its basic treaties on human rights arose out of the ashes of the Holocaust, and thus, "A human rights agenda that fails to address anti-Semitism denies its own history." Your acknowledgement that the UN record on anti-Semitism has fallen short is a meaningful starting point for greater efforts to mobilize its mechanisms to address it. Your involvement in this effort and your sensitive presentation exemplify the kind of leadership and commitment which can advance the fight against anti-Semitism and all forms of intolerance. We, therefore, urge you to follow up on the action you laid out in your remarks and specifically urge you to:


- Repeat your message in various UN forums, including the UN General Assembly, the UN Commission on Human Rights, and in meetings with UN regional groups and Permanent Representatives to the United Nations;
- Continue speaking out against anti-Semitism and anti-Semitic acts and incitement, and oppose the use of hateful anti-Semitic speech at UN forums;
- Work for the passage of a General Assembly resolution condemning anti-Semitism and build upon the action plan put forth in Organization for Security and Cooperating in Europe's 2004 Berlin Declaration;

- Urge the UN bodies with the mandate to address anti-Semitism, such as the special rapporteurs on contemporary forms of racism and on religious freedom and the Commission on Human Rights, to engage in more effective reporting and action to combat anti-Semitism;
- Combat the spread of incitement among young children by calling for the review and revision of educational materials currently used by the United Nation Relief and Works Agency that incite violence, promote anti-Semitism, or deny the legitimacy of the State of Israel as a Jewish state;
- Work to change the content of the materials published by the “Programme on Palestine” that undermine the legitimacy of Israel as a Jewish State and speak out against the manipulation of Palestinian human rights to undermine Jewish human rights; and
- Promote the establishment of a permanent Holocaust memorial in UN Headquarters and endorse the adoption of an International Holocaust Remembrance Day by all states that decry genocide and human rights abuses.

Your vision for the future of the United Nations as a place where “Jews everywhere must feel that the United Nations is their home too” is commendable and long-overdue. We urge you to continue using your good offices to cultivate a new atmosphere at the United Nations for the Jewish people and for the State of Israel – the embodiment of the Jewish People’s basic human right to self-determination. With your leadership and perseverance, we can achieve this goal.


Sincerely,


  
Henry A. Waxman  
Member of Congress


  
Christopher H. Smith  
Members of Congress

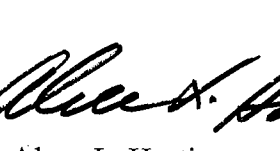
  
Mark Steven Kirk  
Member of Congress


  
Tom Lantos  
Members of Congress


  
Heana Ros-Lehtinen  
Member of Congress

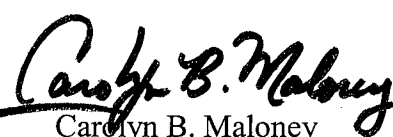
  
John Lewis  
Member of Congress


  
Benjamin L. Cardin  
Members of Congress


  
Alcee L. Hastings  
Member of Congress

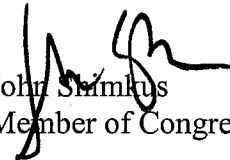
  
Robert Wexler  
Members of Congress


  
James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress


  
Carolyn B. Maloney  
Member of Congress

  
Joseph Crowley  
Member of Congress

  
Ellen O. Tauscher  
Member of Congress


  
John Shimkus  
Member of Congress

  
Robert T. Matsui  
Member of Congress


  
Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress


  
Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress


  
Sheila Jackson-Lee  
Member of Congress


  
Tim Ryan  
Member of Congress

  
Mike McIntyre  
Member of Congress


  
Christopher Shays  
Member of Congress


  
Barney Frank  
Member of Congress

  
Gary L. Ackerman  
Member of Congress


  
Frank R. Wolf  
Member of Congress


  
Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress


  
Steven R. Rothman  
Member of Congress


  
Chris Van Hollen  
Member of Congress

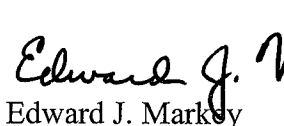
  
Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress

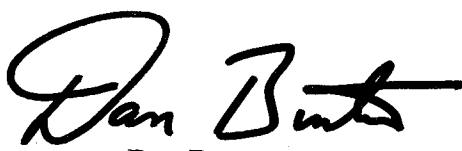
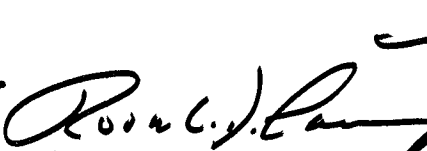

  
Joseph M. Hoefel  
Member of Congress



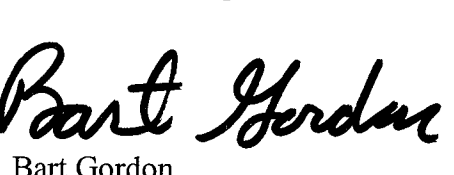
  
Nick Lampson  
Member of Congress


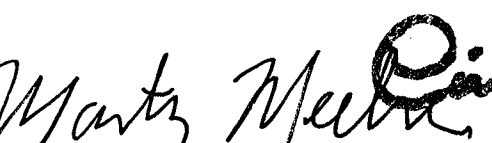
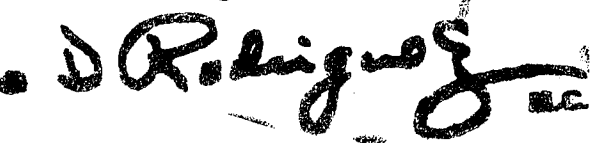
  
Tim Holden  
Member of Congress

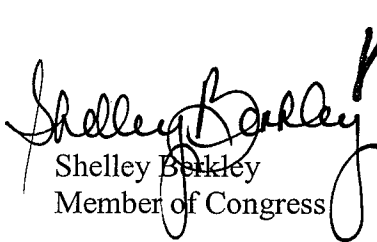
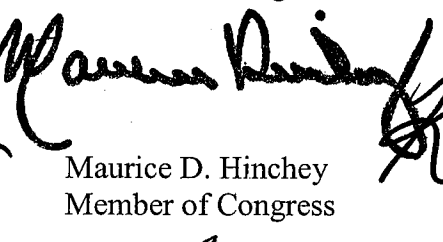
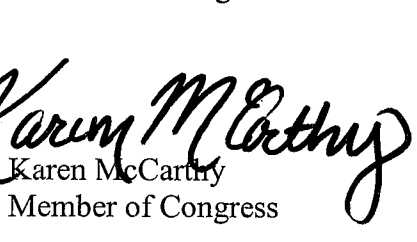
  
Michael R. McNulty  
Member of Congress

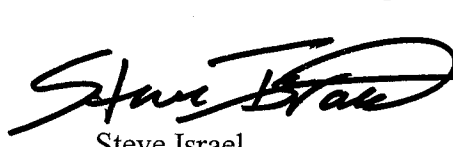


  
Edward J. Markey  
Member of Congress

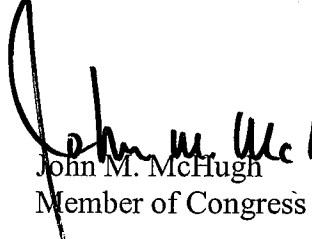
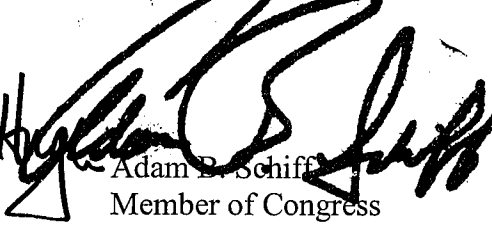
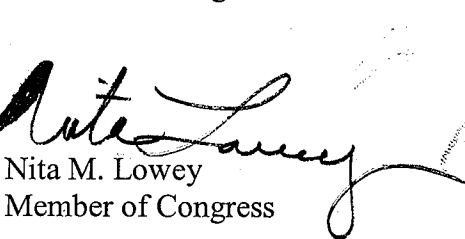
		
Dan Burton Member of Congress	Rosa L. DeLauro Member of Congress	Major J. Owens Member of Congress



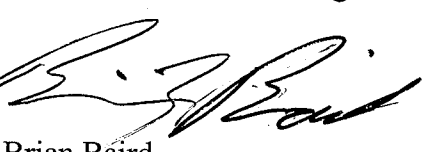
		
Sander M. Levin Member of Congress	Bob Filner Member of Congress	Bart Gordon Member of Congress


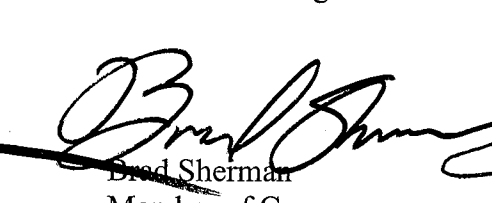
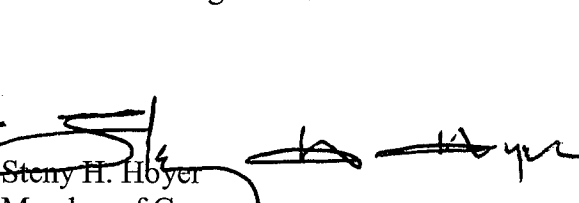
		
Anthony D. Weiner Member of Congress	Martin T. Meehan Member of Congress	Ciro D. Rodriguez Member of Congress

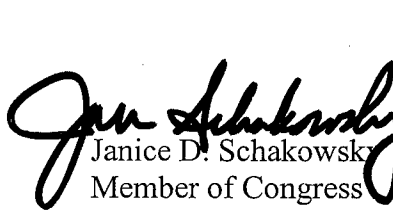
		
Shelley Berkley Member of Congress	Maurice D. Hinchey Member of Congress	Karen McCarthy Member of Congress

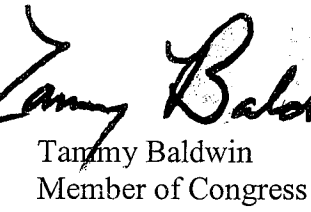
		
Steve Israel Member of Congress	Peter T. King Member of Congress	Howard L. Berman Member of Congress

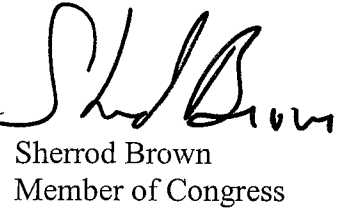
		
John M. McHugh Member of Congress	Adam B. Schiff Member of Congress	Nita M. Lowey Member of Congress

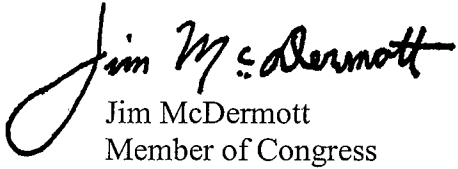
		
Eliot L. Engel Member of Congress	Mike Pence Member of Congress	Brian Baird Member of Congress

		
Zoe Lofgren Member of Congress	Brad Sherman Member of Congress	Steny H. Hoyer Member of Congress


  
Janice D. Schakowsky  
Member of Congress

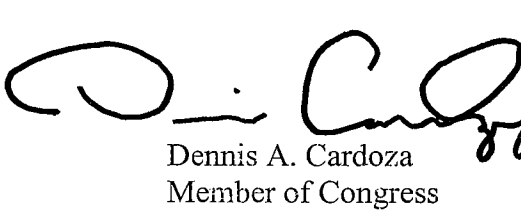
  
Tammy Baldwin  
Member of Congress

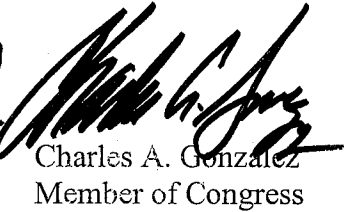
  
Sherrod Brown  
Member of Congress

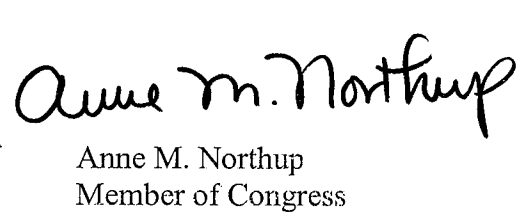
  
Jim McDermott  
Member of Congress

  
Patrick J. Kennedy  
Member of Congress

  
Ben Chandler  
Member of Congress

  
Dennis A. Cardoza  
Member of Congress

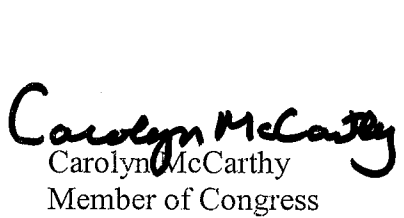
  
Charles A. Gonzalez  
Member of Congress

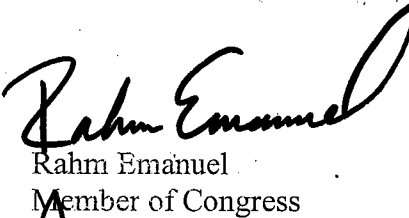
  
Anne M. Northup  
Member of Congress

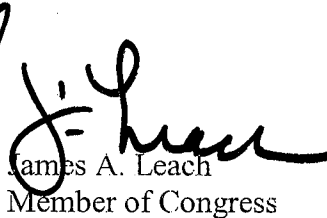
  
Peter Deutsch  
Member of Congress

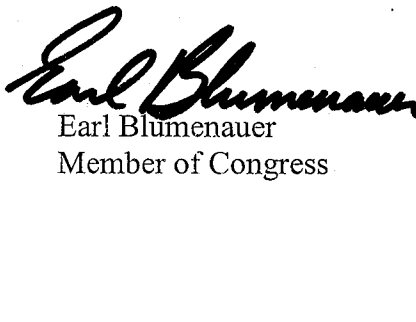
  
Lane Evans  
Member of Congress

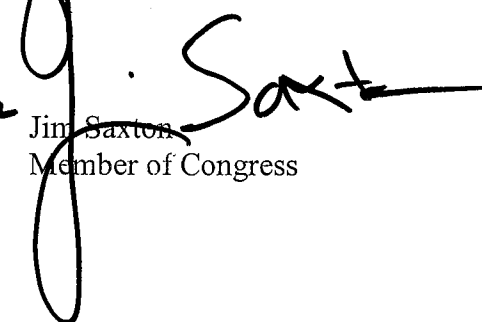
  
Thomas G. Tancredo  
Member of Congress

  
Carolyn McCarthy  
Member of Congress

  
Rahm Emanuel  
Member of Congress

  
James A. Leach  
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Earl Blumenauer  
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Jim Saxton  
Member of Congress