

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

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For Immediate Release

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## Over 70 Members of Congress Send Letter Commending U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan on Anti-Semitism Speech

**WASHINGTON, DC** – The co-chairs of the Congressional Task Force Against Anti-Semitism today joined members of the United States Helsinki Commission in sending a letter commending United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan for his June 21, 2004 address before the U.N.'s first-ever conference devoted entirely to the problem of anti-Semitism.

Seventy-four members signed the letter, which applauds the Secretary-General's strong statement about the need for international community action against anti-Semitism and his recognition that Jews have been alienated by decades of anti-Semitic and anti-Zionist bias and rhetoric at the United Nations.

The letter also urges the Secretary-General to show continued leadership and follow through on the vision laid out in his speech with a series of concrete measures and reforms including passage of a General Assembly resolution condemning anti-Semitism; the review and revision of educational materials currently used by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNWRA) that incite violence, promote anti-Semitism, or deny the legitimacy of the State of Israel as a Jewish state; and the establishment of a permanent Holocaust memorial in U.N. Headquarters and a U.N. sponsored International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

The initiative was organized by Congressional Task Force Against Anti-Semitism co-chair Henry A. Waxman (D-CA) and U.S. Helsinki Commission Chairman Christopher H. Smith (R-NJ), with the help of Task Force co-chairs Mark Stephen Kirk (R-IL), Tom Lantos (D-CA), Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), and John Lewis (R-GA), Helsinki Commission members Benjamin L. Cardin (D-MD), and Alcee L. Hastings (D-FL), and Europe Subcommittee Ranking Member Robert Wexler (D-FL).

The Congressional Task Force Against Anti-Semitism is a coalition of Members of Congress organized to bring awareness and attention to the challenges and achievements in the fight against global anti-Semitism. The U.S. Helsinki Commission is an independent U.S. Government agency created in 1976 to monitor and encourage compliance with the Helsinki Final Act and other commitments of the 55 countries participating in the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

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**Signatories to July 30, 2004 letter to U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan**

1. Henry A. Waxman
2. Christopher H. Smith
3. Mark Steven Kirk
4. Tom Lantos
5. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
6. John Lewis
7. Benjamin L. Cardin
8. Alcee L. Hastings
9. Robert I. Wexler
10. James P. McGovern
11. Carolyn B. Maloney
12. Joseph Crowley
13. Ellen O. Tauscher
14. John M. Shimkus
15. Robert T. Matsui
16. Jerrold Nadler
17. Raúl Grijalva
18. Sheila Jackson-Lee
19. Tim Ryan
20. Mike McIntyre
21. Christopher Shays
22. Barney Frank
23. Gary L. Ackerman
24. Frank R. Wolf
25. Betty McCollum
26. Steven R. Rothman
27. Chris Van Hollen, Jr.
28. Rick Larsen
29. Joseph M. Hoeffel
30. Nicholas V. Lampson
31. Tim Holden
32. Michael R. McNulty
33. Edward J. Markey
34. Dan Burton
35. Rosa DeLauro
36. Major R. Owens
37. Sander M. Levin
38. Bob Filner
39. Bart Gordon
40. Anthony D. Weiner
41. Marty Meehan
42. Ciro D. Rodriguez
43. Shelley Berkley
44. Maurice D. Hinchey
45. Karen McCarthy
46. Steve Israel
47. Peter T. King
48. Howard L. Berman
49. John McHugh
50. Adam Schiff
51. Nita M. Lowey
52. Eliot L. Engel
53. Mike Pence
54. Brian Baird
55. Zoe Lofgren
56. Brad Sherman
57. Steny H. Hoyer
58. Janice D. Schakowsky
59. Tammy Baldwin
60. Sherrod Brown
61. Jim McDermott
62. Patrick J. Kennedy
63. Ben Chandler
64. Dennis Cardoza
65. Charles A. Gonzalez
66. Anne Northup
67. Peter Deutsch
68. Lane Evans
69. Tom Tancredo
70. Carolyn McCarthy
71. Rahm Emanuel
72. James A. Leach
73. Earl Blumenauer
74. Jim Saxton