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**DEFENSE STUDY GROUP**



**Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515-3705**

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May 5, 2004

The Honorable John Ashcroft  
Attorney General  
Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Attorney General Ashcroft:

We are writing to formally request that the Justice Department conduct an investigation into any and all alleged abuses by private contractors at the Abu Ghurayb Prison and other detention facilities in Iraq.

Photographs of the abuse and humiliation of Iraqi prisoners at the Abu Ghurayb Prison have now been broadcast throughout the world and have created an immediate backlash in the Middle East and across the globe. The shocking allegations come at a pivotal time as we work towards the June 30<sup>th</sup> transition of sovereignty. It is imperative that the U.S. government takes whatever actions necessary to restore American credibility.

An internal report conducted by Army Major General Antonio M. Taguba several months ago allegedly states that the abuses at Abu Ghurayb Prison involved members of the Armed Forces, private contractors hired by the Department of Defense, and possibly members of the intelligence community. The Department of Defense has stated it is acting to fully investigate and charge those named in the leaked internal report. Seven officers have been given administrative reprimands and six members of a U.S. Army Reserve unit assigned to Abu Ghurayb prison face courts-martial on charges of assault, cruelty, indecent acts, and maltreatment of detainees.

While we are encouraged that the DoD has made appropriate action against those responsible for these appalling acts a top priority, there remains considerable confusion about what accountability, if any, the private contractors will be held to. In fact, recent news reports indicate that the two private contractors mentioned in the classified report are still employed in Iraq and may still be in positions of responsibility. Under the Military Extraterritorial Jurisdiction Act of 2000, the U.S. Department of Justice has the ability to investigate and prosecute criminal offenses by persons employed by or

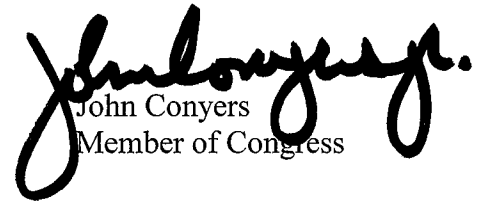
accompanying the Armed Forces outside of the United States. We strongly urge the Justice Department to use these powers authorized by Congress to immediately investigate the alleged abuse by private contractors and, should there be evidence of criminal wrongdoing, to prosecute any individuals to the fullest extent of the law.

America's credibility has been damaged because of these allegations and the distribution of these troubling photographs. The easiest way for us to regain credibility and to reaffirm our commitment to human rights will be to fully and openly investigate these allegations with every resource we have available. We hope you will begin a DOJ investigation immediately.

Sincerely,



Darlene Hooley  
Member of Congress



John Conyers  
Member of Congress



John Spratt  
Member of Congress



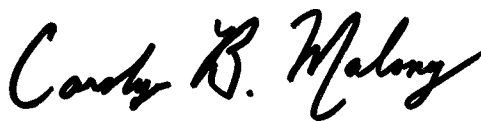
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Baron Hill  
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Elijah Cummings  
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Maxine Waters  
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Tim Ryan  
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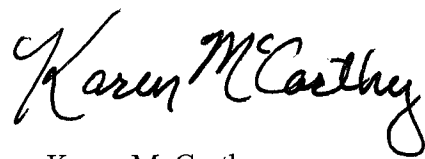
  
Ellen Tauscher  
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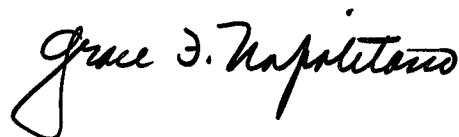
  
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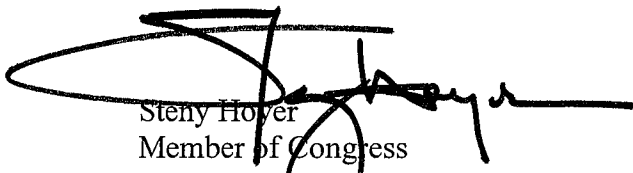
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Max Sandlin  
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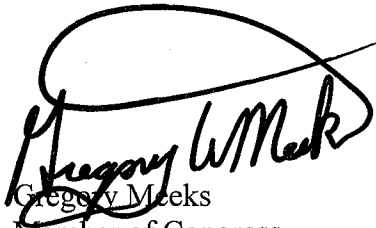
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Anibale Acevedo-Villa  
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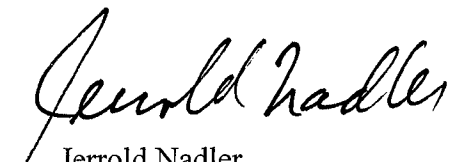
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Gregory Meeks  
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Hilda Solis  
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Diane Watson  
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Steve Rothman  
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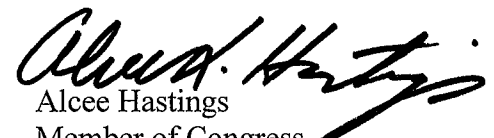
  
Jerrold Nadler  
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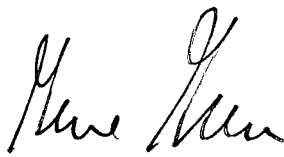
  
Jim McDermott  
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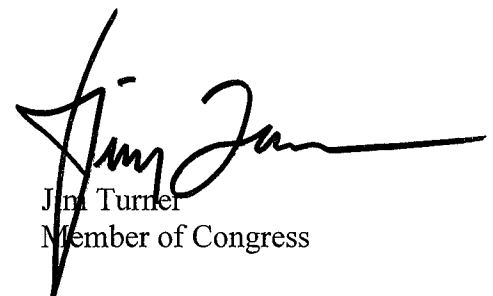
  
William Delahunt  
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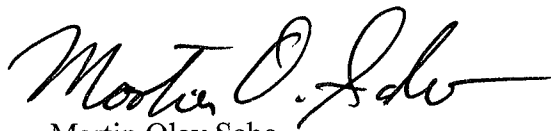
  
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Jerry Kleczka  
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Alcee Hastings  
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Gene Green  
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Jim Turner  
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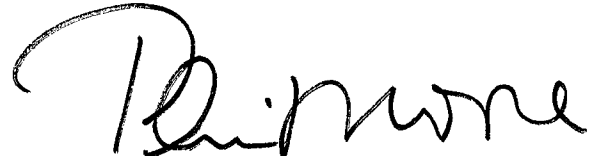
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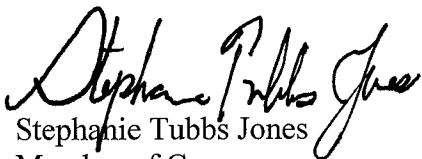
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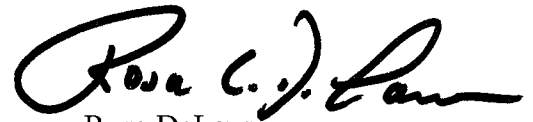
Bernie Sanders  
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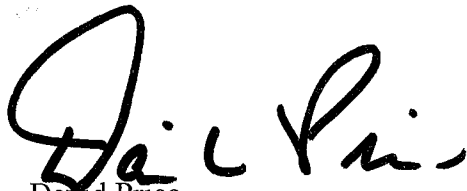
Dennis Moore  
Member of Congress



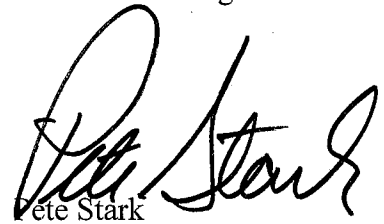
Stephanie Tubbs Jones  
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Rosa DeLauro  
Member of Congress



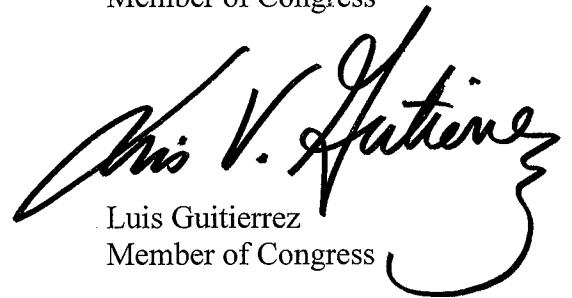
David Price  
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Pete Stark  
Member of Congress



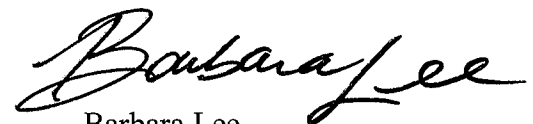
Sander Levin  
Member of Congress



Luis Guitierrez  
Member of Congress



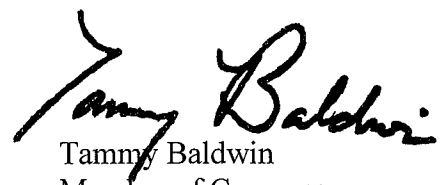
William Lacy Clay  
Member of Congress




Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress



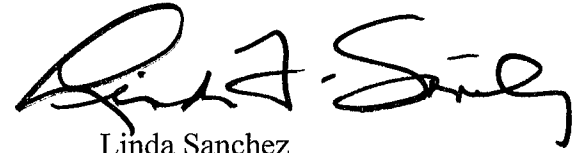
Michael Capuano  
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Tammy Baldwin  
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Chris Van Hollen  
Member of Congress



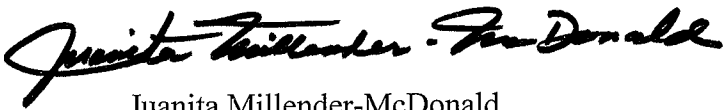
Linda Sanchez  
Member of Congress



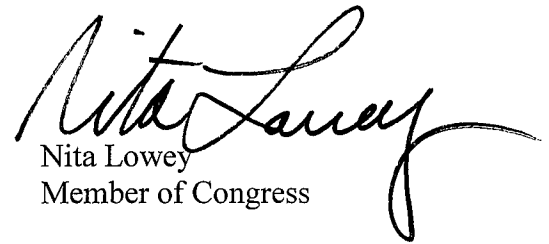
Tom Allen  
Member of Congress



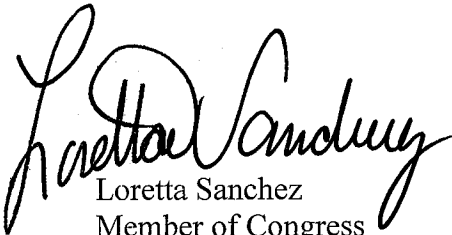
Earl Blumenauer  
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Juanita Millender-McDonald  
Member of Congress



Nita Lowey  
Member of Congress



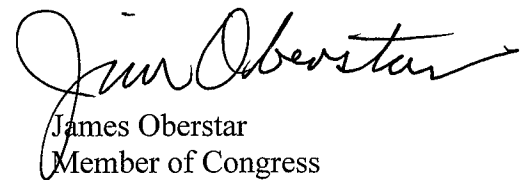
Loretta Sanchez  
Member of Congress



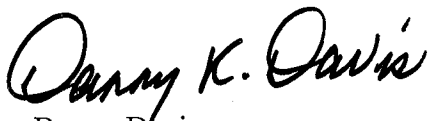
Donald Payne  
Member of Congress



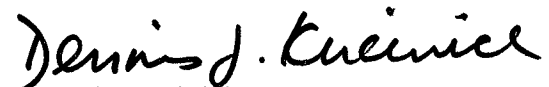
Anna Eshoo  
Member of Congress



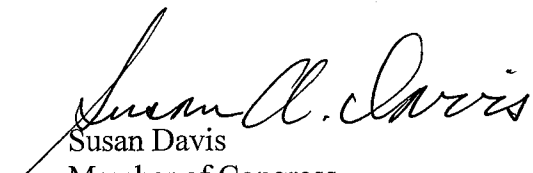
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Member of Congress





Danny Davis  
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Dennis Kucinich  
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Susan Davis  
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David Wu  
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Ken Lucas  
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Carolyn McCarthy  
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Frank Pallone  
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Edolphus Towns  
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Chris Bell  
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Martin Frost  
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Mark Udall  
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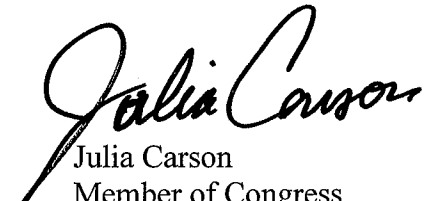
  
Betty McCollum  
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Mike Honda  
Member of Congress

  
Louise Slaughter  
Member of Congress

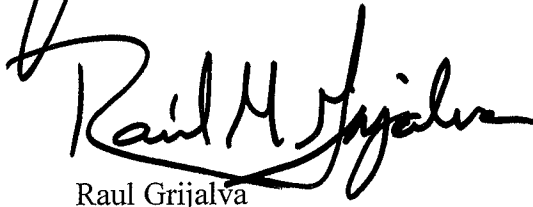


  
John Olver  
Member of Congress

  
Julia Carson  
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Jose Serrano  
Member of Congress

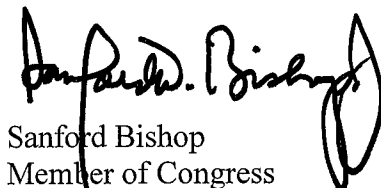
  
Rush Holt  
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Raul Grijalva  
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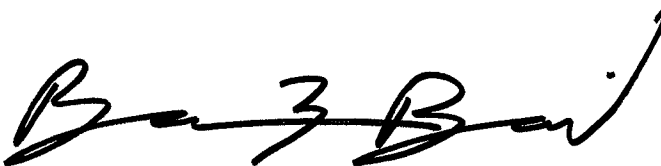
  
Jerry Costello  
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