

JOHN B. LARSON

FIRST DISTRICT, CONNECTICUT

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRADE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SELECT REVENUE MEASURES

DEMOCRATIC STEERING COMMITTEE



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0701

WASHINGTON OFFICE:

1005 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
202-225-2265
202-225-1031 (FAX)

DISTRICT OFFICE:

221 MAIN STREET, SECOND FLOOR
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106
860-278-8888
860-278-2111 (FAX)

INTERNET ADDRESS:

<http://www.house.gov/larson>

TOLL-FREE NUMBER (IN STATE ONLY):

888-716-4734

July 21, 2006

The Honorable Nouri al-Maliki
Prime Minister of the Republic of Iraq
C/o the Embassy of Iraq to the United States
1801 P Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

I write today to strongly encourage you to address two critical issues of concern to the American people during your visit to the United States next week: amnesty for insurgents who have killed Americans and the recent anti-Semitic remarks by the Iraqi Parliament Speaker. As a key leader in Iraq's government, your audiences with our nation's leaders, as well as your address to Congress, will provide you with a unique opportunity in which to express your clear and public position on these issues.

Last month, as details of your draft national reconciliation plan emerged in the international media, serious concerns were raised about the possibility that the plan might provide amnesty for insurgents who have participated in attacks against American forces. Many Americans, including myself, are concerned that this would be the wrong message to send to the insurgency and could put American troops in greater danger. That is why I nearly seventy of my colleagues in the House of Representatives support H.J.Res.90, a resolution which opposes such an amnesty plan.

You recently unveiled your 24-point plan for Iraq's national reconciliation. This plan is a vital part of the process of uniting Iraq behind its new government and I congratulate you on taking this important step. However, there is still concern that your plan leaves the door open to providing amnesty to those actively attacking and killing American troops. As you will recall, on June 27, 2006 you stated "there will be no amnesty for those who have killed Americans." While I deeply appreciate your clear statement on this issue, I understand that you will still be involved in wider negotiations with members of the Iraqi National Assembly and other organizations in crafting a final reconciliation plan.

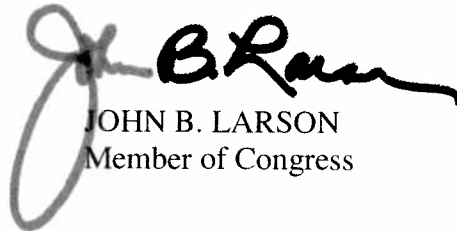
As the Iraqi Government moves forward with reconciliation negotiations, I believe that it is vital that the United States send a clear and unequivocal message that we stand with you in opposing amnesty for those who have killed Americans. To this end, I

strongly urge you to use your visit to clearly express your opposition to any such amnesty and to encourage our nation to stand with you in this position.

In addition, you are no doubt aware of the recent anti-Semitic remarks made by Iraqi Parliament Speaker Mahmoud al-Mashhadani. Earlier this month, the Associated Press reported comments by Mr. Mashhadani in which he accused “Jews” of financing acts of violence in Iraq in order to discredit Islamists who control the parliament and government so they can install their “agents” in power. As a member of the United States Congress, I am committed to helping Iraq build a free and democratic society. However, these comments raise very serious concerns that anti-Semitism remains rampant in the Middle East. I am sure you agree that we must focus our efforts on eliminating the hate that fuels terrorism and work to bring peace and stability to the Middle East, and that we must start by repudiating unfounded and hateful remarks such as these. I therefore strongly urge you to express your clear rejection of these remarks.

I hope that you will have a safe and productive visit to the United States, and look forward with great interest to your address to Congress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John B. Larson". The signature is stylized with a large, looping initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

JOHN B. LARSON
Member of Congress