

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

February 11, 2004

Prime Minister Tony Blair  
10 Downing Street  
London SW1A 2AA  
England

Dear Prime Minister Blair,

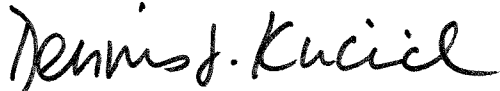
We are writing in support of Katharine Gun, a translator at the British Government Communications Headquarters, who is being prosecuted for leaking a U.S. National Security Agency memo to the Observer, a British newspaper. The memo detailed plans for the U.S. government to wiretap telephones and track emails of “swing vote” countries on the U. N. Security Council. The U.S. hoped to use the secret information obtained to more effectively pressure these countries to vote to authorize military action in Iraq. The NSA memo requested the help of British intelligence in the surveillance. Ms. Gun is being accused of violating Britain’s Official Secrets Act and faces up to two years in jail.

In our opinion, the actions of Ms. Gun qualify her as a whistleblower—an employee who, on the basis of principle, exposes a malpractice or a miscarriage of justice that deserves public attention. Some may make the claim that Ms. Gun’s action compromised national security. We do not agree. Indeed, we cannot conceive of a scenario in which Ms. Gun’s actions would present a national security threat to the United States. Rather, the acts of espionage detailed in the memo she disclosed may have undermined the international stature of the U.S., and in that sense are possible threats to national security. Moreover, it was Ms. Gun’s moral duty to expose the details surrounding the government’s ill-conceived subterfuges to gain support for the war. The British and American public deserved to know all the elements involved in the buildup to the war. As thousands of British and American soldiers were to be committed to fight in the war, Ms. Gun served the public by informing them about how the governments were working to send them.

Whistleblowers play an essential role in a democracy. What they say may not please the powers that be, but that is the public service of the whistleblower. A democracy must protect the whistleblower from reprisal. Indeed, Time Magazine honored three American whistleblowers as “Persons of the Year” last year, to recognize their contributions in exposing the Enron corporate scandal and the FBI’s misuse of intelligence prior to the Al Qaeda attack of September 11. Daniel Ellsberg is another famous American whistleblower who released the Pentagon Papers on Vietnam to the public three decades ago. All of these whistleblowers followed their conscience to reveal important facts to the public, and in all of these cases, the public deserved to know.

We believe that Ms. Gun performed a significant public service by disclosing the memo, and we hope that she receives all the protections that the British democracy accords whistleblowers.


Sincerely,



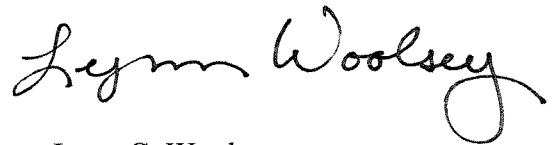
Dennis J. Kucinich  
Member of Congress



John Conyers, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Janice D. Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



Lynn C. Woolsey  
Member of Congress



Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress