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September 6, 2013

H.E. Ambassador Samantha Power
U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations
799 United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017

Dear Ambassador Power,

Thank you for your continued leadership in standing up to those who commit atrocities around the world. The United States must always lead the world in rejecting the use of weapons of mass destruction, and in the case of Syria, it should be no different. The administration has presented a strong case indicating that the Syrian government, led by Bashar al-Assad, is responsible for carrying out the heinous chemical weapons attack that occurred on August 21st of this year, killing more than 1,000 Syrians, including 400 children, and I believe that a response is both warranted and necessary.

I applaud the administration's decision to present this evidence to the American public, Congress, and the world community and furthermore to seek congressional approval prior to launching a military strike. It is my understanding based on the President's statements, along with the statements of other high-ranking members of the administration, that the United States has been engaged in efforts to work with the international community to respond to the clear violation of international law.

However, the United Nations Security Council has not yet met to consider the evidence that the United States has presented and vote on a resolution to recommend action. Moreover, recently the Russian government (without providing evidence to back their assertions) has rejected the U.S. assessment that the Syrian government is responsible for the chemical weapons attack and claimed that it is the rebels that are in fact responsible. As I know you are aware, nearly every country, including all permanent members of the Security Council, have explicitly agreed on the international prohibition on the use of chemical weapons. As our leader at the United Nations, I urge you to immediately call for an emergency meeting of the Security Council to consider the evidence presented by the United States and act on a resolution to enforce this international prohibition. If a member country has additional evidence, they would be able to present it to the world at that point during that meeting.

We cannot let the atrocities committed go without a response, but it is my belief that our strength will be derived from an international response to a violation of an international law. At this critical moment, I urge you to rally the international community and bring a resolution to a vote in the Security Council. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration and for your service to the country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John B. Larson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of each name being capitalized and prominent.

JOHN B. LARSON
Member of Congress