

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

February 2, 2012

The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Clinton:

We are writing to express our opposition to the Administration's decision to move forward with the sale of a limited number of military items and services to Bahrain. We believe that any such sale at this time sends the wrong signal to Bahrain and to the world about America's commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights.

We recognize the limited nature of the sales, and we acknowledge that the Bahraini government has taken some positive steps with respect to human rights in recent months. However, it has not done enough to justify the sale of any military items or services to Bahrain. Moreover, if the Administration wishes to reward the Bahraini government for any progress, there are other methods that do not involve strengthening the Bahraini military or security forces.

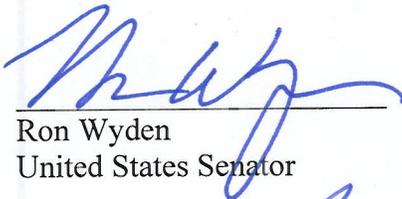
Tragically, even a brief survey of reports from reliable sources makes clear that the Bahraini government continues to perpetrate significant human rights violations. For example, at least 10 people have died as a result of violence perpetrated by the government – including two from teargas exposure – since the release of the report of the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry in November. The government also continues to use excessive force to suppress protests.

In addition, the Bahraini government continues to carry out politically motivated prosecutions of medical professionals who provided emergency medical treatment to protesters. In fact, it is noteworthy that the Bahraini government has pursued prosecutions against protesters far more aggressively than it has pursued prosecutions against senior government officials or security forces who have been responsible for grave abuses over the past year.

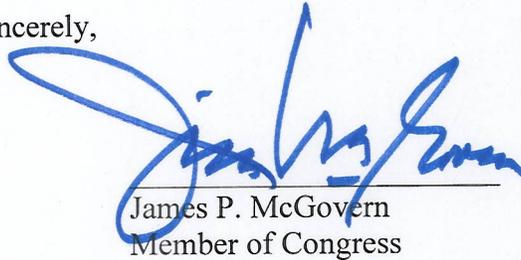
We are deeply concerned that the Government of Bahrain is trying to shield itself from scrutiny. In the last three weeks alone, Bahrain has denied entry to prominent independent human rights monitors, including Brian Dooley of Human Rights First and Richard Sollom of Physicians for Human Rights. These denials came after Bahraini Foreign Minister Sheikh Khalid bin Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Khalifa indicated in October that Bahrain would not deny entry to representatives from non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

In light of this reality, we continue to oppose the sale of all military items and services to Bahrain until there is more substantive and permanent progress on human rights. We believe that our position not only supports human rights in Bahrain, but is also truly in the long-term interest of the United States.

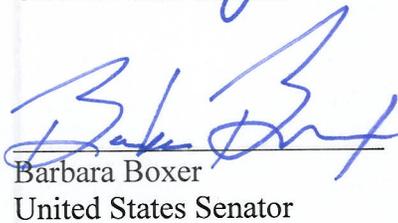
Sincerely,



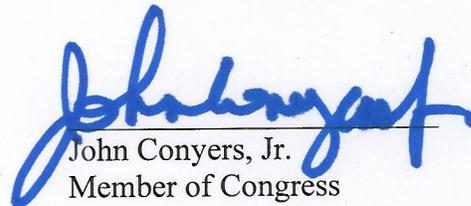
Ron Wyden
United States Senator



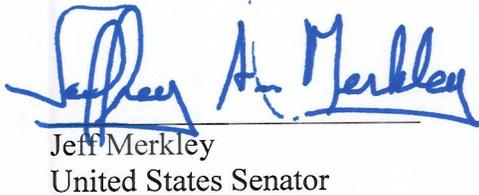
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



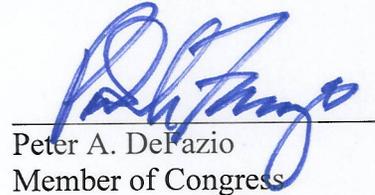
Barbara Boxer
United States Senator



John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress



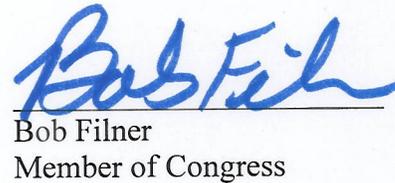
Jeff Merkley
United States Senator



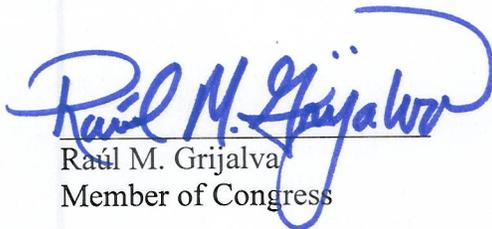
Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress



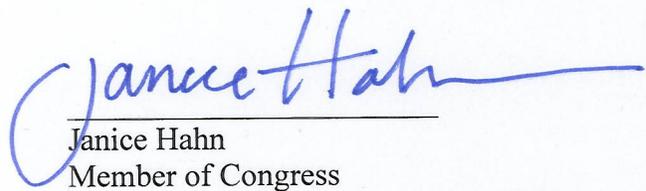
Keith Ellison
Member of Congress



Bob Filner
Member of Congress



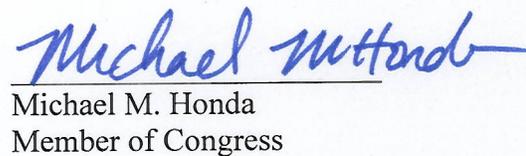
Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Janice Hahn
Member of Congress



Rush Holt
Member of Congress



Michael M. Honda
Member of Congress



Jesse L. Jackson, Jr.
Member of Congress



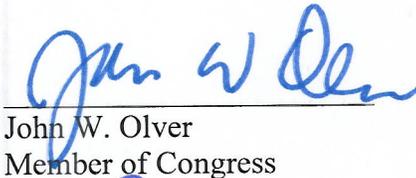
Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



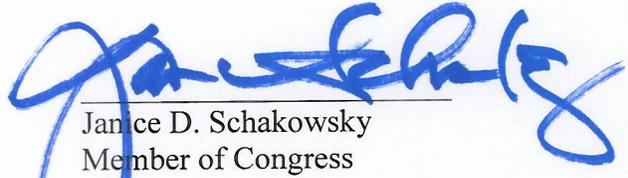
Jim McDermott
Member of Congress



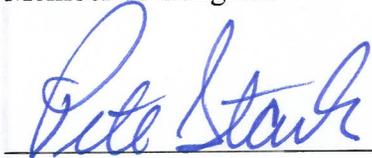
James P. Moran
Member of Congress



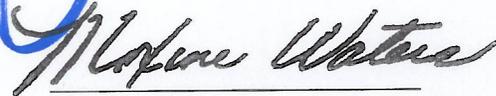
John W. Olver
Member of Congress



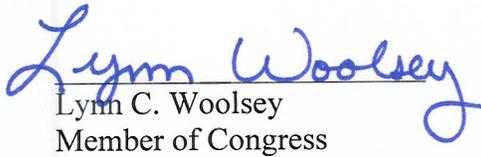
Janice D. Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Pete Stark
Member of Congress



Maxine Waters
Member of Congress



Lynn C. Woolsey
Member of Congress
