

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 25, 2017

The Honorable Jeff Sessions
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20530

The Honorable Rex W. Tillerson
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Attorney General Sessions and Secretary Tillerson:

We write today to express our outrage over the remorseless acts of violence inflicted upon individuals exercising their Constitutionally-protected First Amendment right to free speech outside the Washington, D.C. residence of the Turkish Ambassador on Tuesday, May 16, 2017. Widely circulated video evidence shows and subsequent reports confirm that several members of Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan's security detail physically assaulted multiple individuals leaving them bloodied and bruised with some having to be hospitalized due to the severity of their injuries.

This behavior is the second time in two years that Turkish security forces have threatened and assaulted U.S. citizens and legal residents on American soil. This is unacceptable in any situation, but even more so when Turkish leaders come and claim to be faithful allies to the United States. This clear disrespect for our laws and those who enforce them, especially during National Police Week, is intolerable.

The individuals involved in Tuesday's attacks on Americans on U.S. soil must be identified and brought to justice. Turkish personnel based in the U.S. who were involved in the attacks should be declared *persona non grata* and expelled from the U.S. immediately. Turkish personnel not based in the United States who were involved in the attacks should be barred from entry into the U.S. in the future. Foreign nationals who cannot respect the rule of law of this great country should not be allowed to enjoy the rights and privileges it affords.

Allies do not threaten U.S. troops and allies do not attack U.S. citizens on American soil. We ask you to uphold law and order and demand accountability from the Erdogan government.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter and look forward to your response.

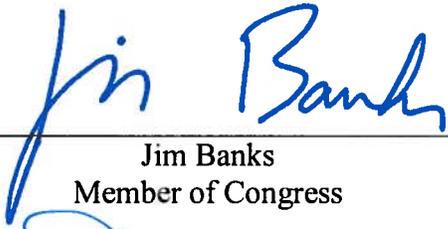
Sincerely,



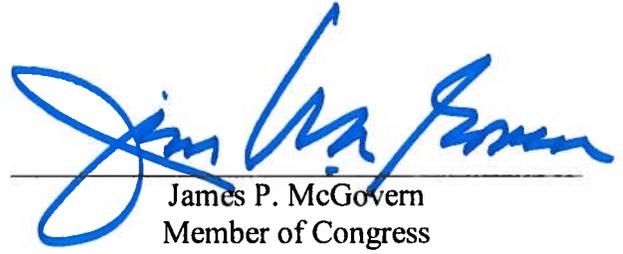
Gus M. Bilirakis
Member of Congress



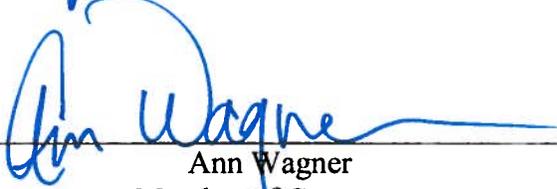
Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Member of Congress



Jim Banks
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Ann Wagner
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



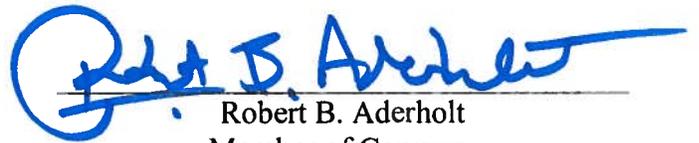
Charlie Crist
Member of Congress



Peter T. King
Member of Congress



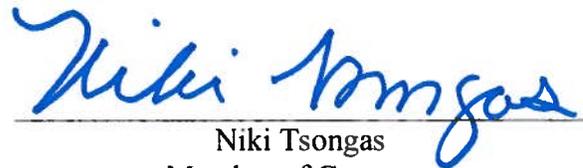
Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



Robert B. Aderholt
Member of Congress



Rodney Davis
Member of Congress



Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress



Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress



Bill Johnson
Member of Congress



Lee Zeldin
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



Carol Shea-Porter
Member of Congress



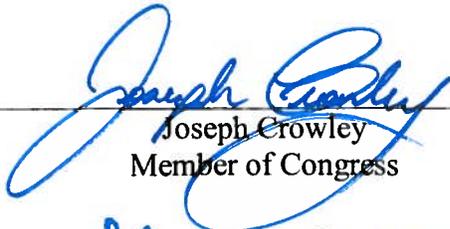
Bradley S. Schneider
Member of Congress



Robin Kelly
Member of Congress



Bill Foster
Member of Congress



Joseph Crowley
Member of Congress



Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress



Dina Titus
Member of Congress



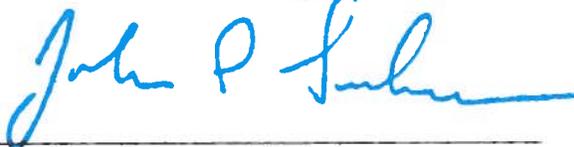
Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



Randy Hultgren
Member of Congress



Ted Deutch
Member of Congress



John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Leonard Lance
Member of Congress



Adam Kinzinger
Member of Congress



David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress



Gregory Meeks
Member of Congress



Jeff Duncan
Member of Congress



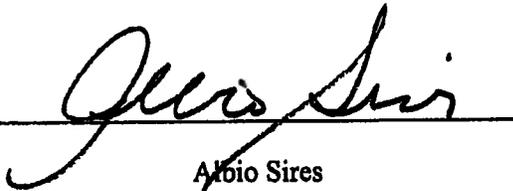
Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress



Ted Poe
Member of Congress



Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress



Albio Sires
Member of Congress



Ted S. Yoho, D.V.M.
Member of Congress