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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-3705

DARLENE HOOLEY

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May 5, 2004

The Honorable John Ashcroft
Attorney General
Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Attorney General Ashcroft:

We are writing to formally request that the Justice Department conduct an investigation into any and all alleged abuses by private contractors at the Abu Ghurayb Prison and other detention facilities in Iraq.

Photographs of the abuse and humiliation of Iraqi prisoners at the Abu Ghurayb Prison have now been broadcast throughout the world and have created an immediate backlash in the Middle East and across the globe. The shocking allegations come at a pivotal time as we work towards the June 30th transition of sovereignty. It is imperative that the U.S. government takes whatever actions necessary to restore American credibility.


An internal report conducted by Army Major General Antonio M. Taguba several months ago allegedly states that the abuses at Abu Ghurayb Prison involved members of the Armed Forces, private contractors hired by the Department of Defense, and possibly members of the intelligence community. The Department of Defense has stated it is acting to fully investigate and charge those named in the leaked internal report. Seven officers have been given administrative reprimands and six members of a U.S. Army Reserve unit assigned to Abu Ghurayb prison face courts-martial on charges of assault, cruelty, indecent acts, and maltreatment of detainees.

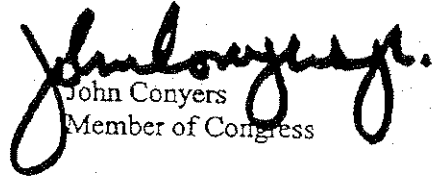
While we are encouraged that the DoD has made appropriate action against those responsible for these appalling acts a top priority, there remains considerable confusion about what accountability, if any, the private contractors will be held to. In fact, recent news reports indicate that the two private contractors mentioned in the classified report are still employed in Iraq and may still be in positions of responsibility. Under the Military Extraterritorial Jurisdiction Act of 2000, the U.S. Department of Justice has the ability to investigate and prosecute criminal offenses by persons employed by or

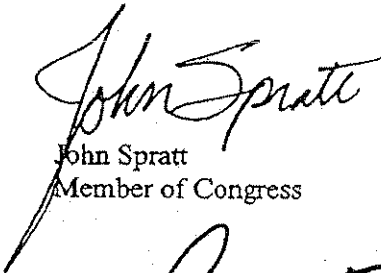
accompanying the Armed Forces outside of the United States. We strongly urge the Justice Department to use these powers authorized by Congress to immediately investigate the alleged abuse by private contractors and, should there be evidence of criminal wrongdoing, to prosecute any individuals to the fullest extent of the law.

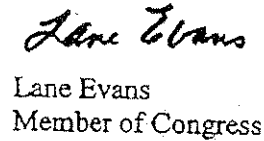
America's credibility has been damaged because of these allegations and the distribution of these troubling photographs. The easiest way for us to regain credibility and to reaffirm our commitment to human rights will be to fully and openly investigate these allegations with every resource we have available. We hope you will begin a DOJ investigation immediately.

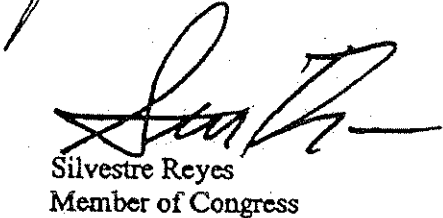
Sincerely,

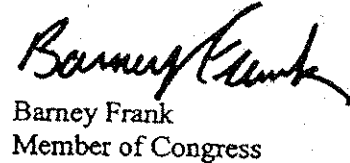

Darlene Hooley
Member of Congress

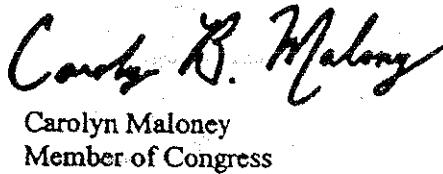

John Conyers
Member of Congress

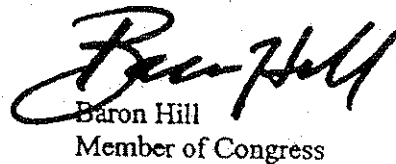

John Spratt
Member of Congress


Lane Evans
Member of Congress

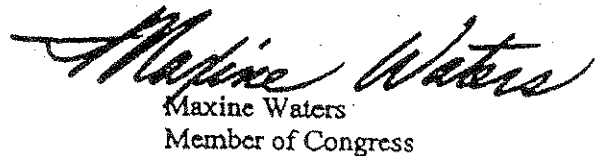

Silvestre Reyes
Member of Congress



Barney Frank
Member of Congress

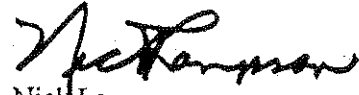

Carolyn Maloney
Member of Congress

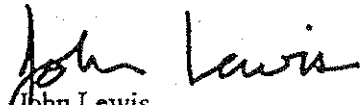

Baron Hill
Member of Congress

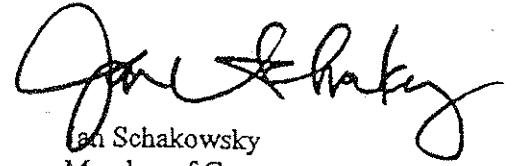

Elijah Cummings
Member of Congress

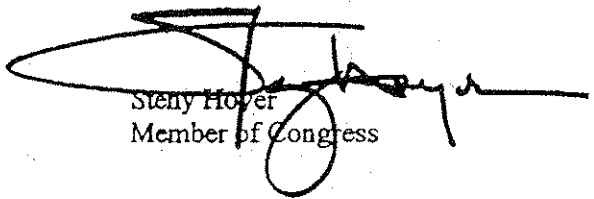

Maxine Waters
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Stephen Lujan
Member of Congress



Nick Lampson
Member of Congress

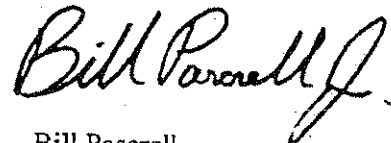

John Lewis
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress

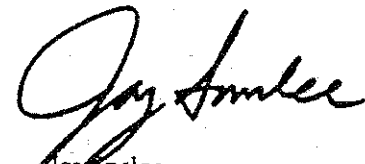

Steny Hoyer
Member of Congress



Jim Langevin
Member of Congress



Max Sandlin
Member of Congress

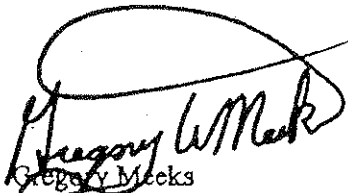

Bill Pascrell
Member of Congress

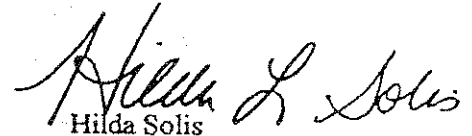

Adam Schiff
Member of Congress


Jay Inslee
Member of Congress

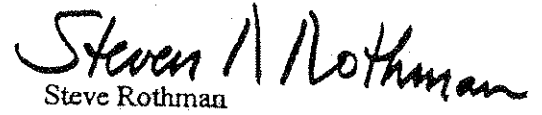

Anibale Acevedo-Villa
Member of Congress

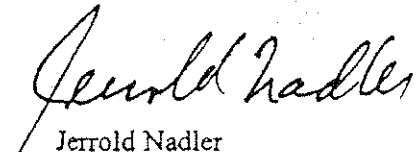

Ron Kind
Member of Congress


Gregory W Meeks
Member of Congress



Hilda Solis
Member of Congress

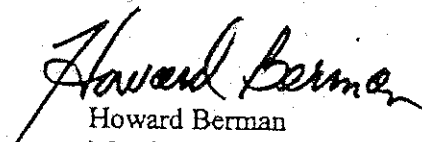

Diane Watson
Member of Congress

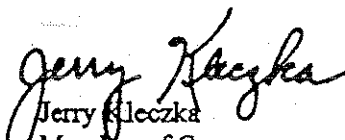

Steve Rothman
Member of Congress

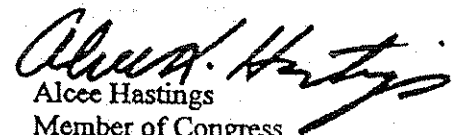

Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Jim McDermott
Member of Congress

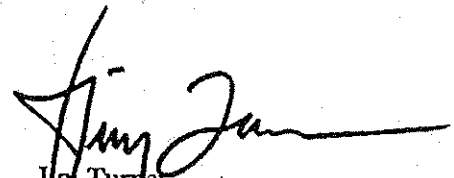

William Delahunt
Member of Congress

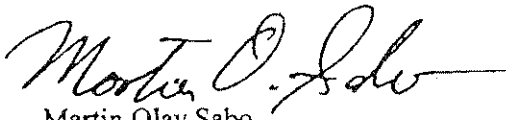

Howard Berman
Member of Congress


Jerry Kleczka
Member of Congress


Alcee Hastings
Member of Congress


Gene Green
Member of Congress

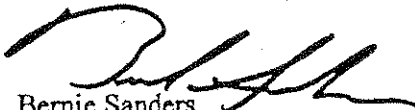

Jim Turner
Member of Congress



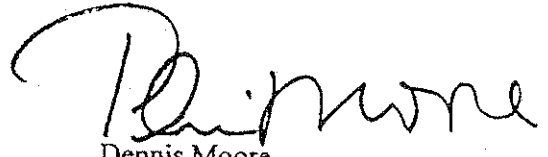
Martin Olav Sabo
Member of Congress



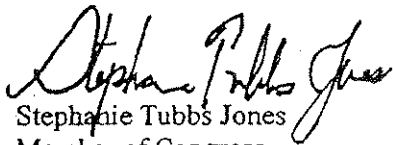
Peter DeFazio
Member of Congress



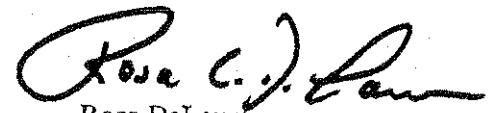
Bernie Sanders
Member of Congress



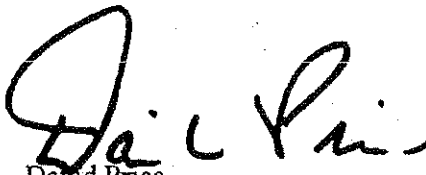
Dennis Moore
Member of Congress



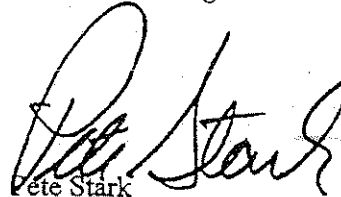
Stephanie Tubbs Jones
Member of Congress



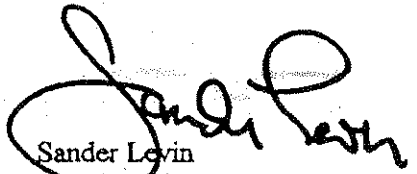
Rosa DeLauro
Member of Congress



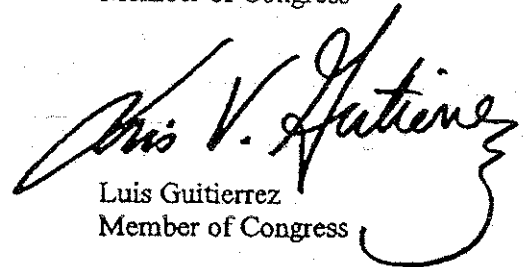
David Price
Member of Congress



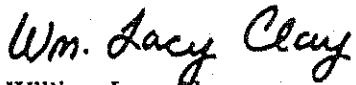
Pete Stark
Member of Congress



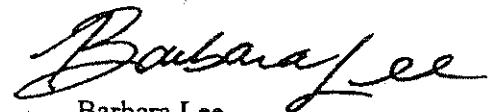
Sander Levin
Member of Congress



Luis Guitierrez
Member of Congress



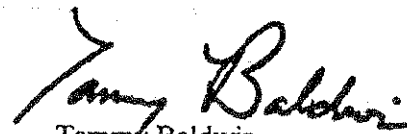
William Lacy Clay
Member of Congress



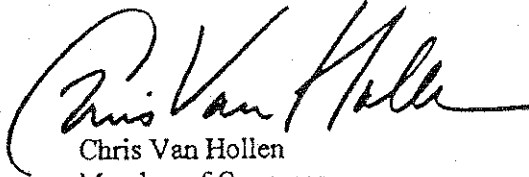
Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

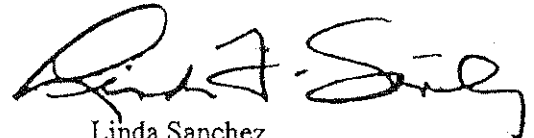



Michael Capuano
Member of Congress




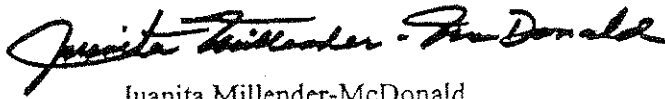
Tammy Baldwin
Member of Congress

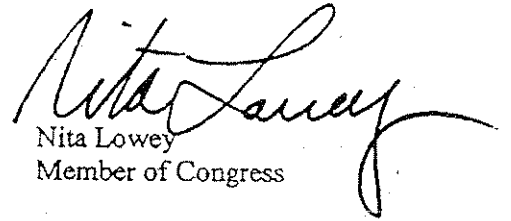

Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress

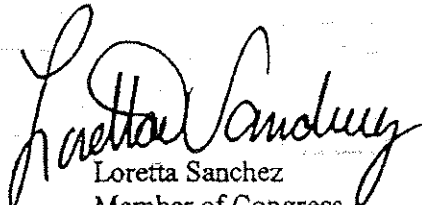

Linda Sanchez
Member of Congress

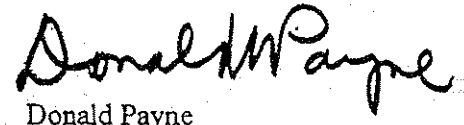

Tom Allen
Member of Congress

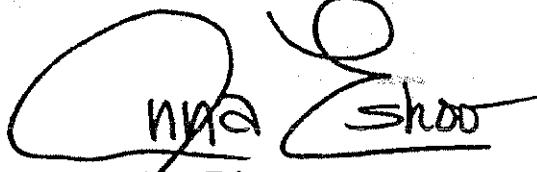

Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Juanita Millender-McDonald
Member of Congress

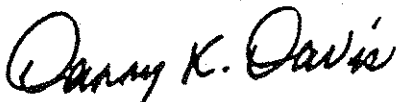

Nita Lowey
Member of Congress


Loretta Sanchez
Member of Congress

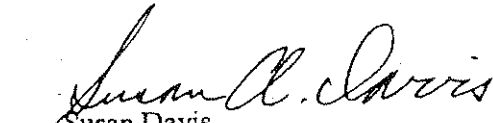

Donald Payne
Member of Congress



Anna Eshoo
Member of Congress

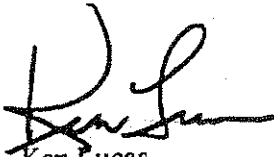

James Oberstar
Member of Congress

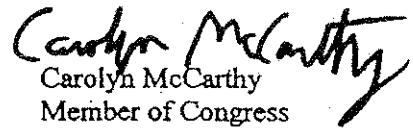

Danny Davis
Member of Congress

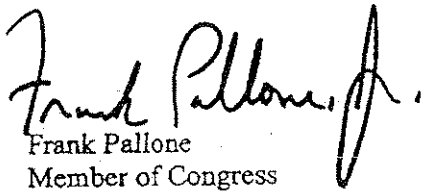

Dennis Kucinich
Member of Congress

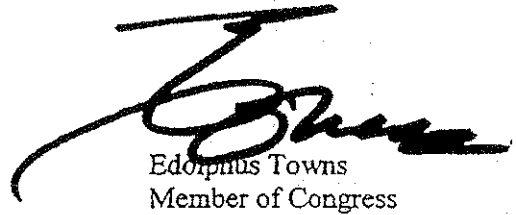

Susan Davis
Member of Congress

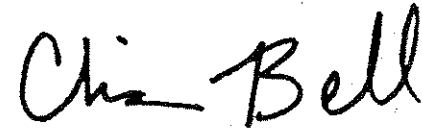

David Wu
Member of Congress


Ken Lucas
Member of Congress

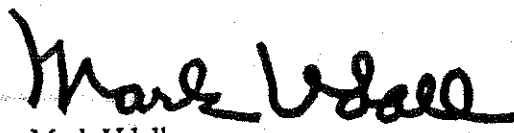

Carolyn McCarthy
Member of Congress

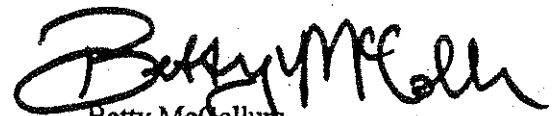

Frank Pallone
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Edolphus Towns
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Martin Frost
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Member of Congress


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