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September 24, 2009

The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Madame Secretary,

We are writing in reference to the State Department congressional notification, transmitted by Richard Verma, Assistant Secretary of Legislative Affairs on September 15th, which notified of the Administration's intent to obligate $2.5 million in fiscal year 2009 Economic Support Funds to support programs by United States government agencies in Libya.

While we recognize State's efforts to improve governance in Libya, we will not support United States assistance to Libya at this time. The celebration that President Qaddafi recently held in honor of Abel Baset Megrahi, the only man convicted in the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103, showed just how little remorse Qaddafi has for the terrorist attacks that killed 270 civilians, including 190 Americans. In addition, he has shown flagrant disrespect for the families of the victims in the New York region during his trip to the United Nations.

We believe these actions condone acts of terrorism and reflect an unwillingness to engage the international community as a credible partner who shares our goals of peace and stability. We ask that you refrain from obligating the funds referenced in the above mentioned congressional notification.

Sincerely,

Nita Lowey
Chairwoman
State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs

Kay Granger
Ranking Member
State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs