



May 20, 2013

The Honorable John Kerry
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
Washington, D.C.

Dear Secretary Kerry,

We write to express our grave concern over the kidnapping of Metropolitan Boulos Yazigi, the Greek Orthodox Archbishop of Aleppo, and Metropolitan Yohanna Ibrahim, the Syriac Archbishop of Aleppo. The two Archbishops were abducted by unknown assailants while carrying out humanitarian work in the northern province of Aleppo on April 22, 2013. We mourn the murder of Fatha'Allah Kabboud, a deacon in the Syriac Orthodox Church, who was serving as the Archbishops' driver at the time of their abduction.

We urge the State Department to make Metropolitan Yazigi and Metropolitan Ibrahim's immediate release and safe return to Aleppo a priority in our efforts in the region.

Metropolitan Yazigi and Metropolitan Ibrahim had previously made public pronouncements that religious tolerance and diversity was under threat from the two-year conflict in their country.

The kidnapping of Metropolitan Yazigi and Metropolitan Ibrahim reflects the troubling rise in abductions in Syria, the expanding chaos and brutality of the civil war that has killed more than 70,000 Syrians, and an increasingly dangerous environment for religious minorities.

As Members of Congress committed to religious freedom in the Middle East and around the world, we believe the United States must do everything it can to ensure that all the diverse religions and ethnicities of Syria have a safe future.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

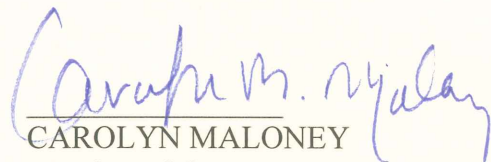
Sincerely,



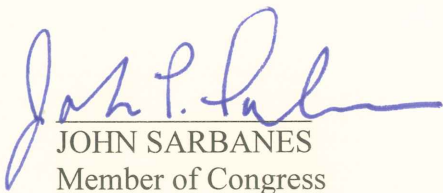
BRAD SHERMAN
Member of Congress



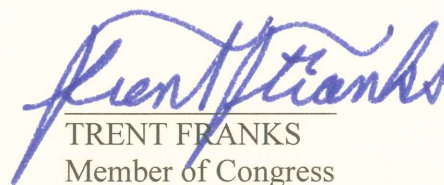
GUS BILIRAKIS
Member of Congress



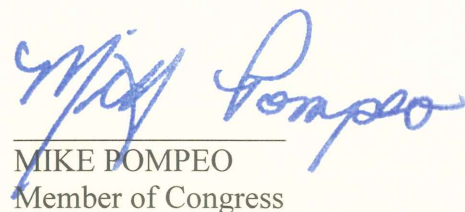
CAROLYN MALONEY
Member of Congress



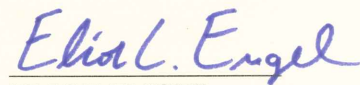
JOHN SARBANES
Member of Congress



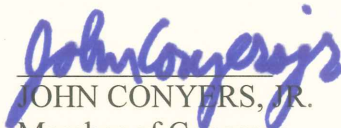
TRENT FRANKS
Member of Congress



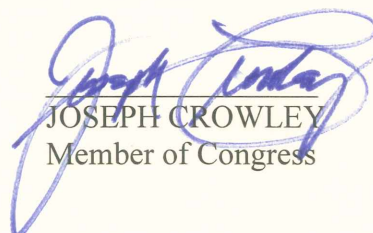
MIKE POMPEO
Member of Congress



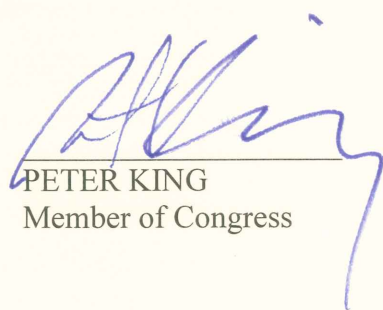
ELIOT ENGEL
Member of Congress



JOHN CONYERS, JR.
Member of Congress



JOSEPH CROWLEY
Member of Congress



PETER KING
Member of Congress



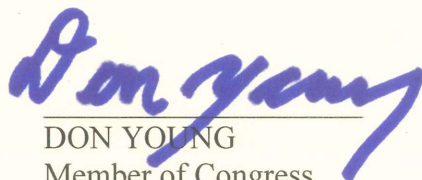
CHRIS VAN HOLLEN
Member of Congress



PETER ROSKAM
Member of Congress



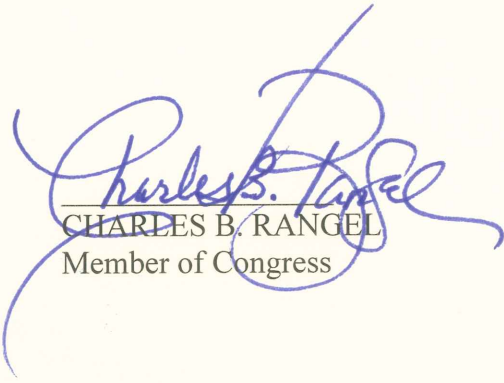
DARRELL ISSA
Member of Congress



DON YOUNG
Member of Congress



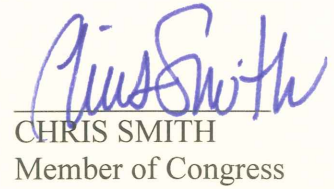
STEVE ISRAEL
Member of Congress



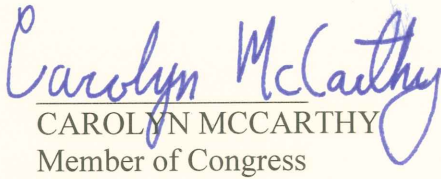
CHARLES B. RANGEL
Member of Congress



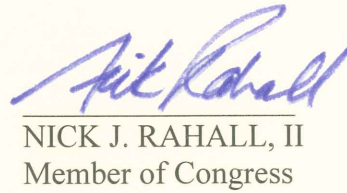
WALTER B. JONES
Member of Congress



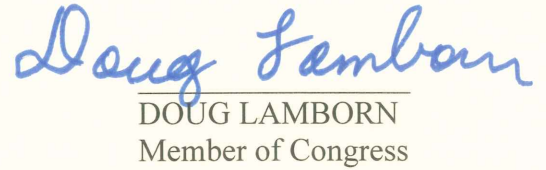
CHRIS SMITH
Member of Congress



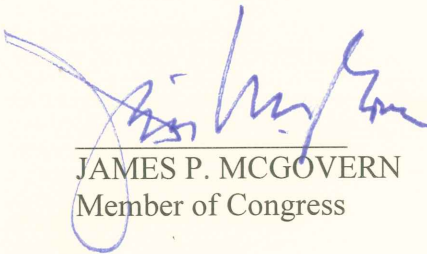
CAROLYN MCCARTHY
Member of Congress



NICK J. RAHALL, II
Member of Congress



DOUG LAMBORN
Member of Congress



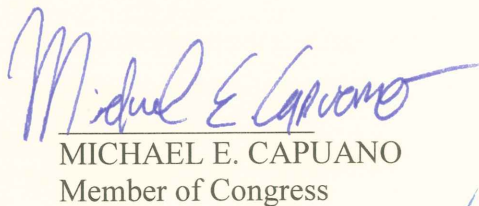
JAMES P. MCGOVERN
Member of Congress



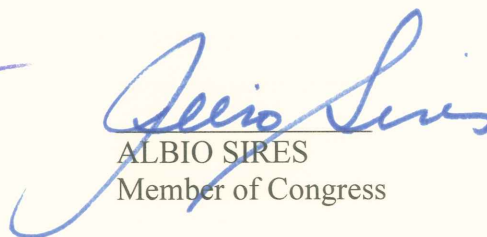
WILLIAM KEATING
Member of Congress



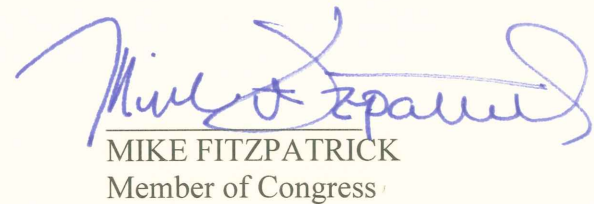
JIM LANGEVIN
Member of Congress



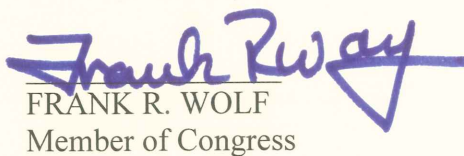
MICHAEL E. CAPUANO
Member of Congress



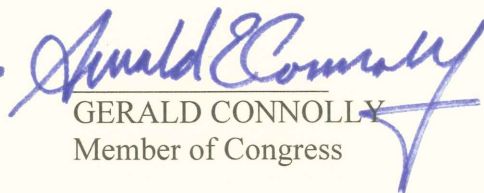
ALBIO SIRES
Member of Congress



MIKE FITZPATRICK
Member of Congress



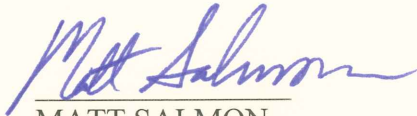
FRANK R. WOLF
Member of Congress



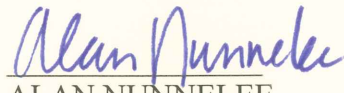
GERALD CONNOLLY
Member of Congress



PETER DEFAZIO
Member of Congress




MATT SALMON
Member of Congress



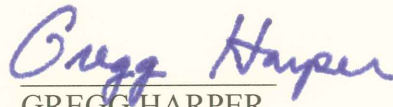
ALAN NUNNELEE
Member of Congress



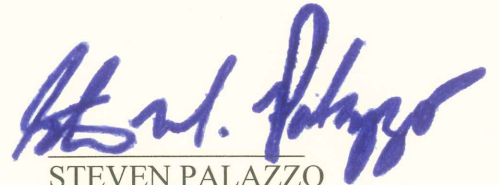
BILL PASCRELL, JR.
Member of Congress



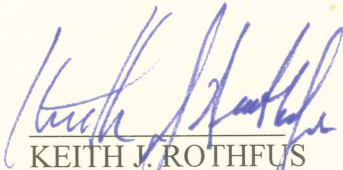
SCOTT GARRETT
Member of Congress



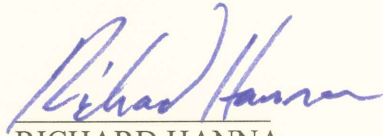
GREGG HARPER
Member of Congress



STEVEN PALAZZO
Member of Congress



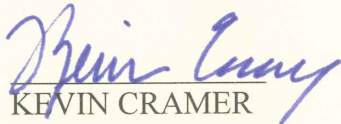
KEITH J. ROTHFUS
Member of Congress



RICHARD HANNA
Member of Congress



JOSEPH R. PITTS
Member of Congress



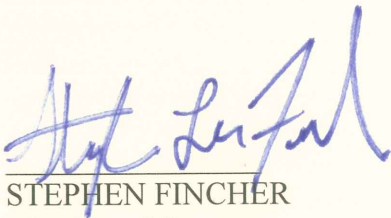
KEVIN CRAMER
Member of Congress



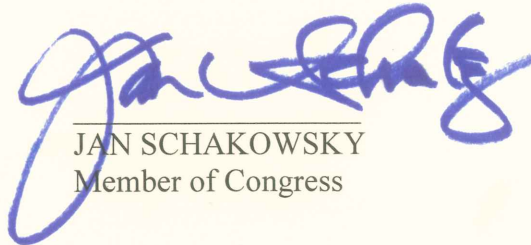
ANDY HARRIS
Member of Congress



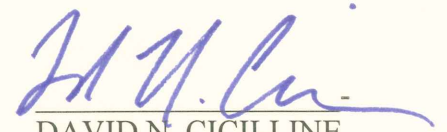
JAMES LANKFORD
Member of Congress



STEPHEN FINCHER
Member of Congress



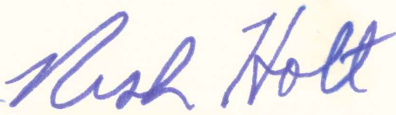
JAN SCHAKOWSKY
Member of Congress



DAVID N. CICILLINE
Member of Congress



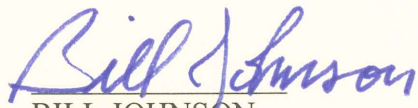
CHRIS STEWART
Member of Congress



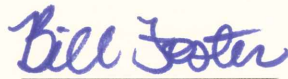
RUSH HOLT
Member of Congress



TED DEUTCH
Member of Congress



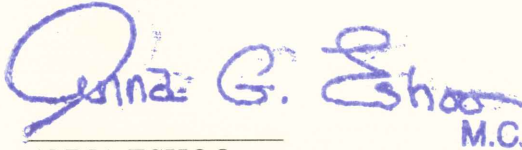
BILL JOHNSON
Member of Congress



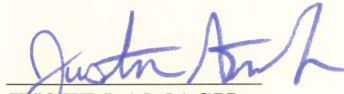
BILL FOSTER
Member of Congress



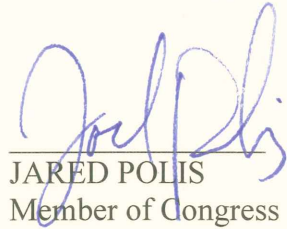
MICHAEL F. DOYLE
Member of Congress



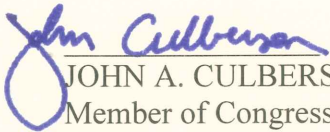
ANNA ESHOO
Member of Congress



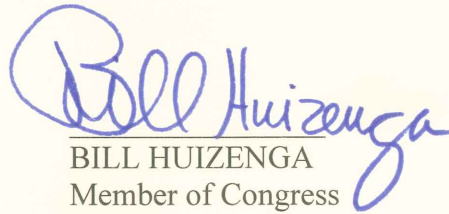
JUSTIN AMASH
Member of Congress



JARED POLIS
Member of Congress



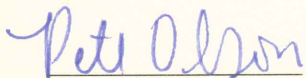
JOHN A. CULBERSON
Member of Congress



BILL HUIZENGA
Member of Congress



GARY C. PETERS
Member of Congress



PETE OLSON
Member of Congress



RICK LARSEN
Member of Congress



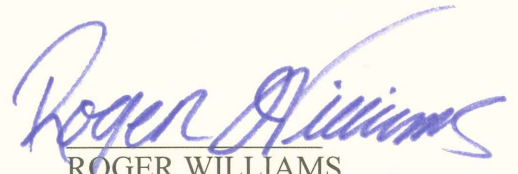
STEVE COHEN
Member of Congress



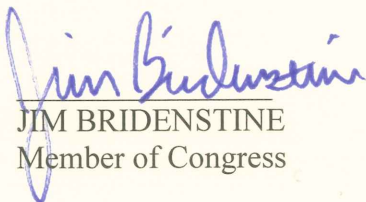
TIM HUELSKAMP
Member of Congress



TIM GRIFFIN
Member of Congress



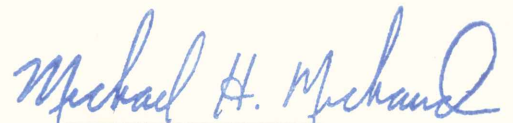
ROGER WILLIAMS
Member of Congress



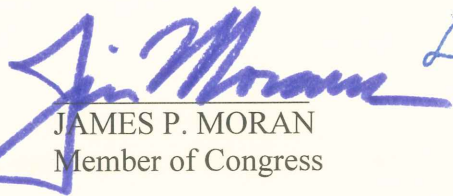
JIM BRIDENSTINE
Member of Congress



TIM MURPHY
Member of Congress



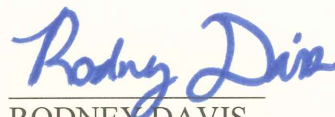
MICHAEL H. MICHAUD
Member of Congress

A stylized, handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim Moran". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

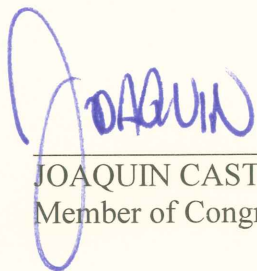
JAMES P. MORAN
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Leonard Lance". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

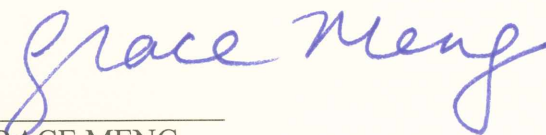
LEONARD LANCE
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rodney Davis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

RODNEY DAVIS
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joaquin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

JOAQUIN CASTRO
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Grace Meng". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

GRACE MENG
Member of Congress



LYNN JENKINS

Member of Congress