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NEW JERSEY

COMMITTEES:

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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 24, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Clinton:

I am writing to you regarding Libyan leader Colonel Muammar el-Qaddafi's upcoming trip to the United Nations. I ask that travel restrictions be placed on any visa issued to Colonel Qaddafi limiting him to travel only in the United Nations Headquarters District as defined in the 1947 "Headquarters Agreement."

Given the recent release of Abdel Basset al-Megrahi, the former Libyan intelligence agent convicted of the 1988 Lockerbie bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 that killed 270 people including 189 Americans, and the welcome he received upon his return to Libya, allowing Colonel Qaddafi to travel freely in the U.S. would be an affront to the families of the Pan Am 103 victims.

I strongly condemned the release of Abdel Basset al-Megrahi on August 20th and the celebratory response he received when returning to Libya. I am deeply disappointed that the Libyan government chose to ignore appeals by President Obama to resist a celebration of Mr. Megrahi's return to the country.

Colonel Qaddafi is currently scheduled to address the United National General Assembly in New York on September 23, 2009. Given recent events, I believe the State Department should ensure that Colonel Qaddafi's entry into the United States is for official U.N. business only and does not allow him to travel freely. I was particularly concerned by news reports indicating that Colonel Qaddafi plans to stay in New Jersey, where the families of many Pan Am 103 victims reside.

As you know, the United Nations Headquarters District is defined by the 1947 Headquarters Agreement as the land in New York City located between 42nd and 48th Streets and First Avenue and the Franklin D. Roosevelt Drive. The State Department has previously placed travel restrictions on foreign dignitaries and should place strict limitations on Colonel Qaddafi's movements.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

