

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 4, 2008

The Honorable Condoleezza Rice
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Madam Secretary,

We are writing in response to the announcement of your trip to Libya, scheduled for September 5, 2008. This trip comes at a critical turning point given the yet to be fully implemented agreement between the U.S. and Libya to settle the claims of U.S. victims of Libyan-sponsored acts of terrorism. As the first Secretary of State to visit Libya in more than fifty years, we urge you to focus your trip on prevailing on the Government of Libya to fulfill the settlement obligations it has made to American victims of Libyan terrorism.

Encouraged by U.S. diplomatic efforts over the past few months to bring about final resolution of outstanding cases against Libya, Congress passed the Libyan Claims Resolution Act (P.L.110-301). This legislation contributes to the implementation of a comprehensive claims settlement agreement for Libya to compensate U.S. victims of Libyan terrorism, including the victims of the 1986 bombing of the Labelle discothèque in Berlin, Germany, victims of the 1988 Pan Am 103 bombing over Lockerbie Scotland, and other cases involving U.S. victims of Libyan-sponsored acts of terrorism. While Libya's signing of the U.S.-Libyan brokered agreement on August 14, 2008, in Tripoli is a step in the right direction, to date the funds have not been deposited in the appropriate accounts and, as a result, these claims have not been resolved, one of the critical steps in the normalization of U.S.-Libyan bilateral relations.

Passage of the Libyan Claims Resolution Act signaled to the Government of Libya the U.S. Congress's willingness to allow the normalization of U.S.-Libyan bilateral relations to move forward once the August 14, 2008 agreement is fully implemented. Accordingly, we expect that a primary purpose of your trip will be to press the Libyans to follow through on this agreement.

We look forward to learning the details of your discussions with the Libyans upon your return.

Sincerely,


FRANK R. LAUTENBERG


CARL LEVIN