

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 29, 2012

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

The Honorable Susan E. Rice
Press and Public Diplomacy Section
United States Mission to the United Nations
799 United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017

Dear Secretary Clinton and Ambassador Rice,

As the US prepares to attend the negotiating conference for an international Arms Trade Treaty in July, the need for stricter controls on the arms trade is abundantly clear. The world has watched in horror as peaceful protesters have been injured and killed in democratic uprisings around the globe. According to estimates by the Control Arms Campaign, one person dies every minute as a result of armed violence, with thousands more abused and injured daily. It is also in the security interests of the United States to stem the flow of weapons that fuel conflict and global instability.

The US must play a leadership role in pushing for the highest possible arms control standards to mitigate the devastating violence caused by proliferation of conventional arms.

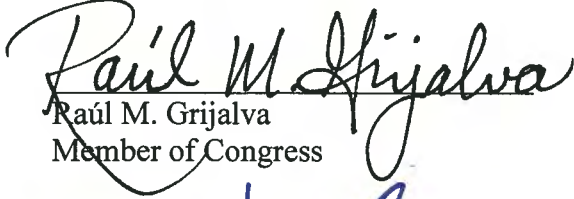
The US government should support an ATT with:

- Strong criteria linked to international human rights law, including denial of arms transfers if there is substantial risk they will be used to commit or facilitate human rights abuse.
- Inclusion of controls on a comprehensive list of weaponry, including small arms and light weapons.
- Inclusion of ammunition in the scope of the treaty.
- A pragmatic standard for entry into force. This must include a large enough number of countries to create an international norm, but not requirements so stringent that implementation would face delays.

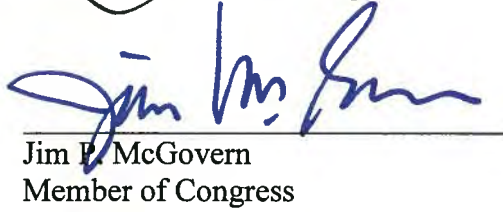
As humanitarian group Oxfam noted, “As incredible as this may seem, we have the most cumbersome rules on selling bananas and MP3 players, but no solid, internationally-binding rules on arms trade.” It is high time that we develop a legal framework for stopping the spread of these deadly weapons.

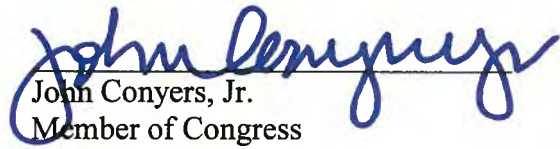
We strongly urge the United States to take a leadership role in pushing for a strong, verifiable Arms Trade Treaty.

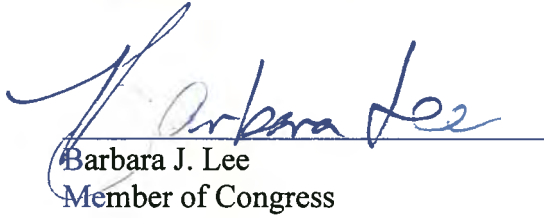
Sincerely,


Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress


Fortney Pete Stark
Member of Congress

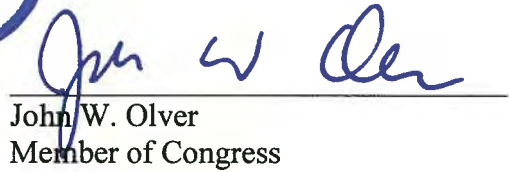

Jim P. McGovern
Member of Congress


John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress

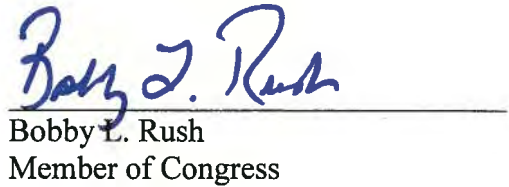

Barbara J. Lee
Member of Congress


Jan D. Schakowsky
Member of Congress


Sam Farr
Member of Congress

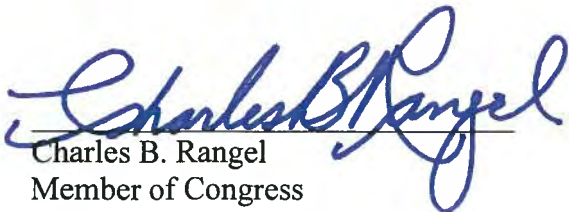

John W. Olver
Member of Congress

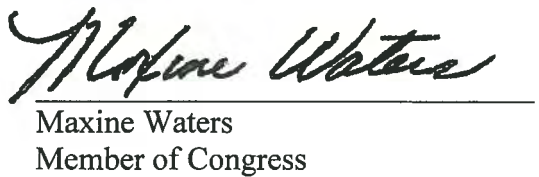

Al Green
Member of Congress

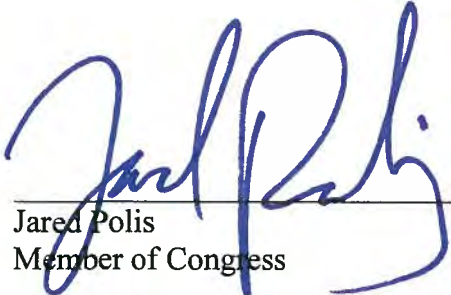

Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress


Dennis J. Kucinich
Member of Congress


Michael M. Honda
Member of Congress


Charles B. Rangel
Member of Congress



Maxine Waters
Member of Congress




Jared Polis
Member of Congress



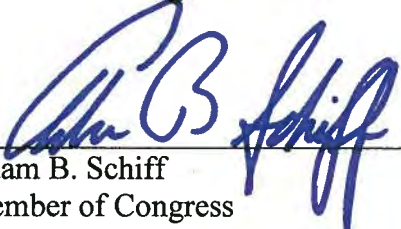
Bob Filner
Member of Congress




Rush D. Holt
Member of Congress



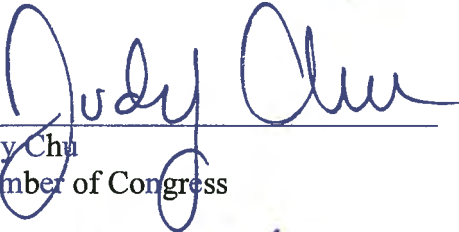
John Garamendi
Member of Congress



Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress



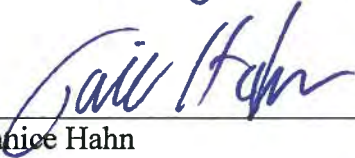
Keith Ellison
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



Janice Hahn
Member of Congress