

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 27, 2008

The Honorable Ban Ki-moon
Secretary General
United Nations
First Avenue at 46th Street
New York, New York 10017

Dear Secretary General:

We write to you with grave concern for the rapid escalation of violence and political turmoil in Zimbabwe, and we urge you to appoint a special envoy to Zimbabwe. A United Nations special envoy would signal to Zimbabwe that the international community is committed to human rights and the peace and stability of their country.

According to human rights organizations and published news reports, since the announcement of a runoff election intimidation of citizens and violent reprisals against the supporters of Morgan Tsvangirai have increased dramatically. No one has been spared: women, children, and the elderly have all been targeted. Mr. Tsvangirai himself fled the country and has only recently returned, despite persistent fears he will be assassinated.

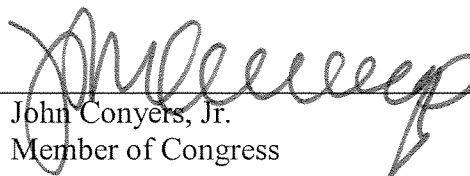
We are especially troubled by reports that Anglican worshippers have been assaulted during services, and that church officials have been interrogated by local police. Some people fear for their lives to the extent that they refrain from attending religious services.

Such egregious violations of human rights must not be tolerated. Without prompt and decisive action from the international community, the situation will certainly deteriorate further. We urge you to appoint a special envoy to Zimbabwe immediately, and equip that person with the resources to restore peace, protect the civil rights of Zimbabweans, negotiate the safe return of presidential candidate Morgan Tsvangirai, and ensure the integrity of the presidential runoff election scheduled for June 27.

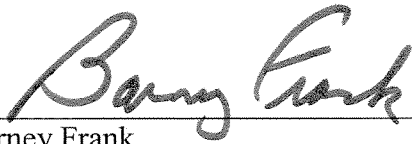
Sincerely,



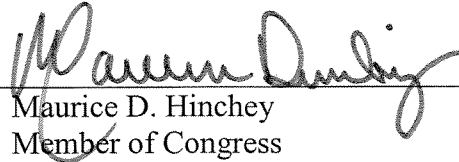
Dennis J. Kucinich
Member of Congress



John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress



Barney Frank
Member of Congress



Maurice D. Hinchey
Member of Congress



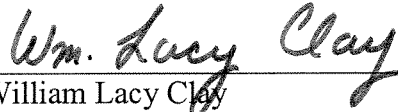
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



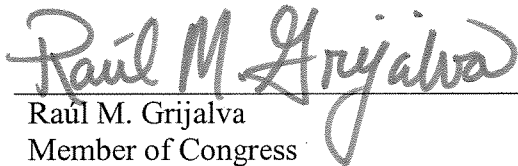
Tammy Baldwin
Member of Congress



David Wu
Member of Congress



William Lacy Clay
Member of Congress



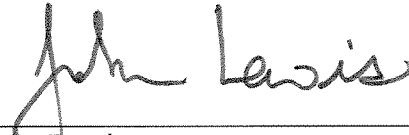
Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Carolyn C. Kilpatrick
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



John Lewis
Member of Congress



Keith Ellison
Member of Congress



Betty Sutton
Member of Congress