

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 24, 2011

The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton
Secretary of State
United States Department of State
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Clinton:

We write to express our concern for the safety of American passengers on the U.S. ship *The Audacity of Hope*, which will set sail for Gaza in the next few days. We request that you do everything in your power to work with the Israeli government to ensure the safety of the U.S. citizens on board.

A year ago, Israel took military action against the "Gaza flotilla" in international waters, which resulted in the deaths of nine civilians, including one American citizen. In addition, ten Israeli commandos and more than 20 passengers were injured in this tragic incident. In order to avoid another confrontation this year, we urge all parties to practice maximum restraint and avoid violence.

We wholeheartedly support Israel's right, and indeed its duty, to protect its citizens from security threats. The measures it uses to do so, as in the case of any other nation, must conform to international humanitarian and human rights law. We are encouraged that *The Audacity of Hope* organizers have stated that their cargo "is open to international inspection" and that they "are fully committed to nonviolence and the tenets of international law."

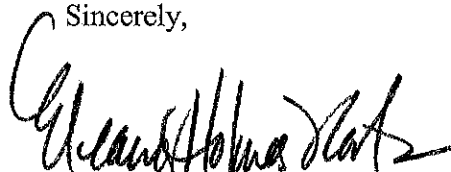
We look forward to working with you in any way we can and encourage you to ensure the safety of all American citizens on board *The Audacity of Hope*.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



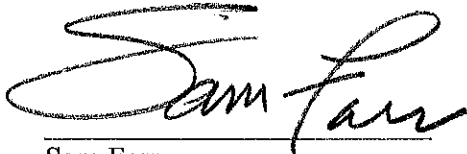
Dennis J. Kucinich
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



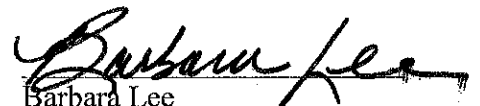
William Lacy Clay
Member of Congress



Sam Farr
Member of Congress



Bob Filner
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress