

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

April 6, 2022

The Honorable Joseph R Biden  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington D.C. 20500

The Honorable Antony Blinken  
Secretary  
Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden and Secretary Blinken,

We write today to express strong bipartisan support for current U.S. efforts, in coordination with other United Nation (UN) Member States, to suspend Russia from the UN Human Rights Council. In light of the recent announcement that this matter will be voted on tomorrow, we commend the UN for working expeditiously. We urge you and our allies to hold Russia accountable for the war crimes committed in Bucha and in other locations, and removing them from the UN Human Rights Council is a vital first step.

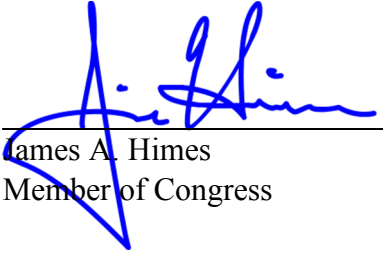
This past weekend, journalists and Ukrainian authorities reported the death of civilians in Bucha following the withdrawal of Russian troops from the area. Multiple sources captured images of dead civilians who were shot in the head at close-range, showed signs of torture, and had their hands tied. According to residents of the area, Russian troops entered buildings and either forcibly removed civilians or executed them. As a result of this brutal violation of international humanitarian law, hundreds of Bucha residents were killed.

According to the United Nations, Member States on the UN Human Rights Council must “commit themselves to cooperating with the Council and to upholding the highest standards in the promotion and protection of human rights.” Russia has violated this commitment. If a Member State fails to uphold these expectations, the General Assembly has the right to suspend the Member State from the Council for its gross and systematic violations of human rights with a two-thirds majority vote by the General Assembly.

Russia’s actions in Bucha constitute war crimes. This incident follows weeks of Russia’s violation of territorial sovereignty and international law. On Monday the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, Linda Thomas-Greenfield, announced that she would work in close coordination with Ukraine and other UN Member States and partners to suspend Russia from the UN Human Rights Council. We applaud this announcement and the prompt action of your Administration and the UN to address these atrocities.

We appreciate your continued efforts and attention to upholding international law and human rights standards. Thank you for your focus on this urgent matter.

Sincerely,



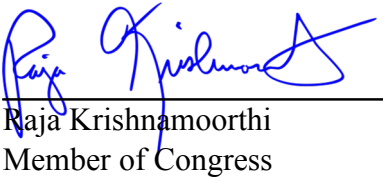
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James A. Himes  
Member of Congress



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Joe Wilson  
Member of Congress



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Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Member of Congress



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Bill Johnson  
Member of Congress



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Adam B. Schiff  
Member of Congress



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Andy Harris, M.D.  
Member of Congress



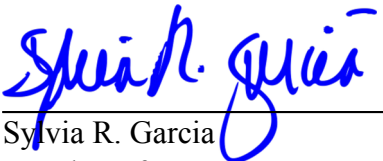
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Brian K. Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress



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Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress




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Sylvia R. Garcia  
Member of Congress



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Carolyn B. Maloney  
Member of Congress



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Stephanie Murphy  
Member of Congress



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Michael R. Turner  
Member of Congress



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Adriano Espaillat  
Member of Congress



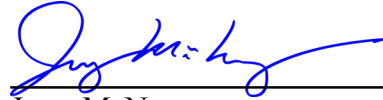
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John Katko  
Member of Congress



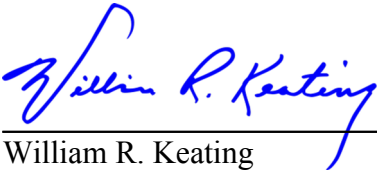
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Rosa L. DeLauro  
Member of Congress



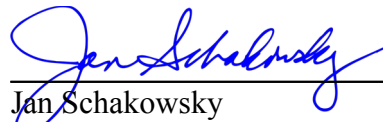
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Jerry McNerney



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William R. Keating  
Member of Congress



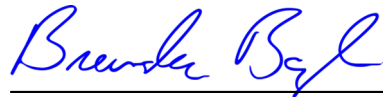
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Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



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Eric Swalwell  
Member of Congress



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Brendan F. Boyle  
Member of Congress



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Joseph D. Morelle  
Member of Congress



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Joe Courtney  
Member of Congress



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Lizzie Fletcher  
Member of Congress



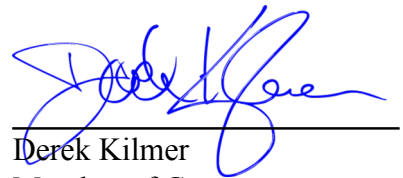
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Chris Pappas  
Member of Congress



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Karen Bass  
Member of Congress



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Derek Kilmer  
Member of Congress



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Burgess Owens  
Member of Congress



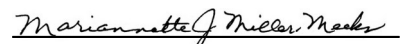
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C. A. Dutch Ruppertsberger  
Member of Congress



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Mike Carey  
Member of Congress



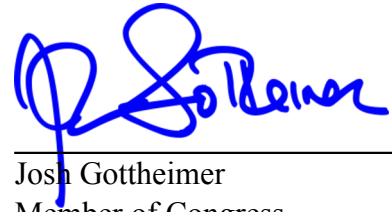
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Mariannette Miller-Meeks,  
M.D.  
Member of Congress



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A. Donald McEachin  
Member of Congress



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Josh Gottheimer  
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David N. Cicilline  
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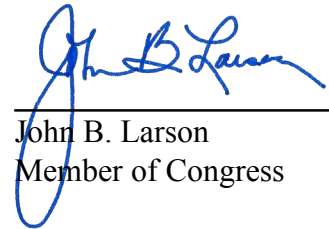
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Peter Welch  
Member of Congress



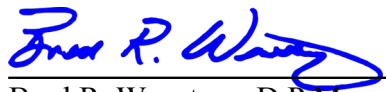
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David J. Trone  
Member of Congress



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John B. Larson  
Member of Congress



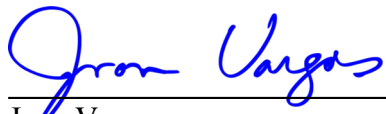
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Brad R. Wenstrup, D.P.M.  
Member of Congress



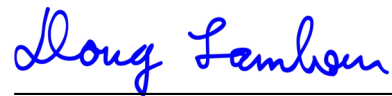
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Jim Costa  
Member of Congress



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Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress



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Doug Lamborn  
Member of Congress

*André Carson*

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Member of Congress

*Katie Porter*

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*Barbara Lee*

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*Grace Meng*

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Member of Congress

*Donald M. Payne, Jr.*

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Member of Congress

*Madeleine Dean*

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Member of Congress

*Jason Crow*

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Member of Congress

*Cynthia Axne*

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Member of Congress

*Frederica S. Wilson*

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Member of Congress

*Angie Craig*


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Member of Congress



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Brian Higgins  
Member of Congress



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Jackie Speier  
Member of Congress



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Doris Matsui  
Member of Congress



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Chris Stewart  
Member of Congress



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Michael Waltz  
Member of Congress



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Dina Titus  
Member of Congress



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Elise M. Stefanik  
Member of Congress



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Jenniffer González-Colón  
Member of Congress