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COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE
WORKFORCE

July 26, 2011

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

Dear Secretary General:

I write to bring to your attention recent developments in Libya and to reiterate my calls for accountability of member states of the United Nations (U.N.) and the top command of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) for actions taken in Libya pursuant to U.N. Security Council Resolution 1973. I continue to be concerned that the United Nations is selectively applying international law and is allowing NATO to take actions in Libya that place Libyan civilians at great risk.

Recent reports indicate that continued military operations in Libya are imposing increasing hardship on civilians and may have also resulted in the deaths of innocent civilians. Yesterday's *Washington Post* reports that "a hospital worker in western Libya said that NATO forces struck a local hospital on Monday and killed seven people, including three doctors" in Zlitan, Libya and may have also bombed food warehouses. In addition, *The Washington Post* reports that residents of Tripoli are experiencing significant gas shortages and high food prices.¹ If the reports of civilians killed by a NATO strike are true, the U.N. and the International Criminal Court must take immediate actions to hold member states and NATO's top command in Libya accountable.

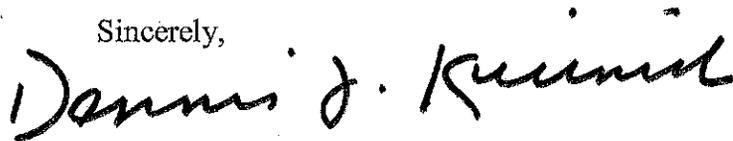
The violence continues as potentially viable peace proposals are floated. NATO allies actively involved in the war in Libya have expressed openness toward allowing for Libyan President Muammar Gaddafi to stay in the country but give up power, potentially addressing a key sticking point for both sides. According to *Bloomberg*, the "U.S., the U.K., Italy and France now say they're willing to accept an outcome in Libya that would allow Muammar Qaddafi avoid exile or a trial on war crimes charges. After conducting four months of daily bombings, NATO-led allies are willing to let Qaddafi stay in Libya on the condition that he gives up power." That the allies

¹ (2011, July 23). "Tripoli struggles for sense of normalcy five months into civil war." *The Washington Post*, Online. Accessible: http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle-east/tripoli-struggles-for-a-sense-of-normalcy-5-months-into-civil-war/2011/07/23/gIQAKS9vUI_story.html.

are now trying for a political solution while NATO continues to pursue a military solution shows just how far out of touch and out of control the NATO command is. The use of military force in Libya carried a clear goal – in contradiction of UN Security Resolution 1973 – of removing Muammar Gaddafi from power and has only placed innocent civilians at further risk. It is evident that as the conflict enters its fifth month, continued bombing is unlikely to serve as a tool that protects civilians or results in the removal from power of Muammar Gaddafi. Indeed, a NATO official was recently quoted as saying that “It’s getting more difficult to find stuff to blow up.”²

I reiterate my request that the U.N. take immediate action to hold member states and their NATO extension accountable for actions in Libya that violate U.N. Security Council Resolutions and that are taken to serve their own political interests in the country, rather than to carry out the stated purpose in UNSCR 1973 of protecting Libyan civilians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dennis J. Kucinich". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Dennis J. Kucinich
Member of Congress

² Cloud, David S. (2011, July 21). “Pentagon mulls NATO request for more U.S. drones in Libya campaign.” *The Los Angeles Times*, Online. Accessible: <http://articles.latimes.com/2011/jul/21/world/la-fg-drones-libya-20110722>.