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**Congress of the United States**  
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COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE  
WORKFORCE

April 12, 2011

The Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I write to express my concern regarding the United States government's management of the assets of the Libyan government it froze last month.

On February 28, 2011, the United States announced that the Department of Treasury had frozen over \$30 billion of assets under U.S. jurisdiction belonging to the Libyan government, pursuant to Executive Order 13566. Two days prior, the United Nations Security Council passed Resolution (UNSCR) 1970, which established an arms embargo and called on its member states to freeze "all funds, other financial assets and economic resources which are on their territories" belonging to the Libyan government. UNSCR 1970 also provides for the disposition of all assets frozen in expressing "its intention to ensure that assets frozen...shall at a later stage be made available to and for the benefit of the people of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya."

You stated in your March 28, 2011 address that the United States "will safeguard the more than \$33 billion that was frozen from the Qaddafi regime so that it's available to rebuild Libya. After all, the money doesn't belong to Qaddafi or to us -- it belongs to the Libyan people." I wholeheartedly agree.

If managed poorly, the frozen assets could be harmful to the Libyan people and to our own goals. Ahmed el-Sharif, the head of the opposition's central bank, is quoted as saying that "if the west wants to protect Libya they should protect them through every arena, economic, political and military."<sup>1</sup> Furthermore, *The Washington Post* recently reported on the lack of arms, training, and organization among Libyan opposition forces.<sup>2</sup> We also know from reports in *The Wall Street Journal* that Egypt has provided Libyan rebels with arms.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> England, Andrew. (2011, April 5). "Rebel-held Libya Running out of Cash." *The Financial Times*, online. Accessible: <http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/776e3732-5fc4-11e0-a718-00144feab49a.html#axzz1JLAQTQpk>.

<sup>2</sup> Chivers, C.J. (2011, April 6). "Libya Rebels Don't Really Add Up to an Army." *The Washington Post*, online. Accessible: [http://www.nytimes.com/2011/04/07/world/africa/07rebels.html?\\_r=1&hp=&pagewanted=print](http://www.nytimes.com/2011/04/07/world/africa/07rebels.html?_r=1&hp=&pagewanted=print).

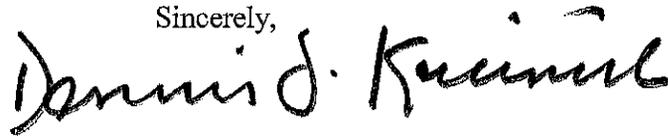
<sup>3</sup> Levinson, Charles; Rosenburg, Matthew. (2011, March 17). "Egypt Said to Arm Libya Rebels." *The Wall Street Journal*, online. Accessible: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704360404576206992835270906.html>.

You have stated that the justification for intervening in Libya was to protect Libyan civilians; yet members of your Administration are actively considering arming Libyan opposition forces that we know little about. I am gravely concerned that our desire to provide aid to opposition forces could result in prolonging a civil war in Libya, which would inevitably increase civilian casualties.

What process has the United States government established to ensure that the frozen assets are returned to the Libyan people and for their benefit? At what point in time will the U.S. release some of the funds and to whom? Will the United States provide the Interim Transnational Council - which includes former Libyan government officials - with access to the assets? How will the U.S. government ensure proper oversight of the funds in U.S. jurisdiction to guarantee that they are used for the purpose of rebuilding Libya?

I look forward to your response.

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