

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 21, 2017

The Honorable Rex W. Tillerson  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Tillerson,

As you know, many members of Congress were outraged by the vicious attacks on peaceful protesters at the hands of the security detail of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Washington, DC on May 16, 2017. On June 6, 2017, by a vote of 397-0, the House of Representatives passed a resolution condemning these brutal actions and calling on the State Department to hold the perpetrators accountable. We continue to urge that steps must be taken to ensure that these men are brought to justice and that similar incidents are prevented in the future.

In light of this truly disturbing event, we write to urge you to reject the small arms sale of \$1.2 million worth of semiautomatic handguns for the same security forces responsible for the attack. Preventing this sale sends a clear message that the U.S. will not turn a blind eye to such brutality against unarmed protesters. Such a sale must be contingent upon a resolution to the May 16 incident that includes holding the guards involved fully accountable.

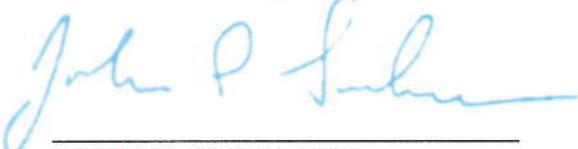
We hope that especially while your investigation into the events of May 16 is ongoing, you will not allow this arms sale to Turkish security forces to go forward. Thank you for your consideration on this important matter.

Sincerely,

  
CAROLYN B. MALONEY  
Member of Congress

  
GUS M. BILIRAKIS  
Member of Congress

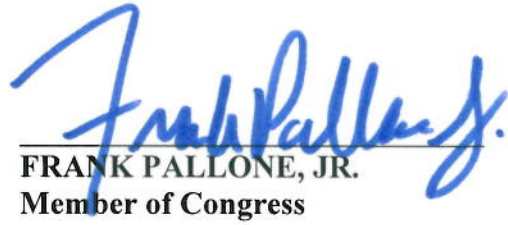
  
LOUISE M. SLAUGHTER  
Member of Congress

  
JOHN P. SARBANES  
Member of Congress



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**JAMES P. McGOVERN**  
Member of Congress



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**FRANK PALLONE, JR.**  
Member of Congress



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**BRADLEY S. SCHNEIDER**  
Member of Congress



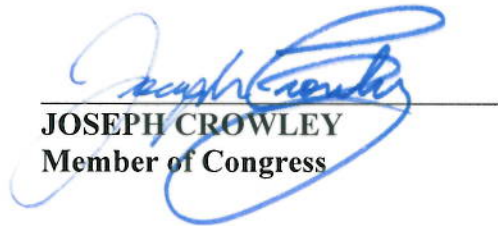
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**DINA TITUS**  
Member of Congress



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**THEODORE E. DEUTCH**  
Member of Congress



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**JOSEPH CROWLEY**  
Member of Congress