

HOWARD L. BERMAN, CALIFORNIA
CHAIRMAN

GARY L. ACKERMAN, NEW YORK
ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA, AMERICAN SAMOA
DONALD M. PAYNE, NEW JERSEY
BRAD SHERMAN, CALIFORNIA
ROBERT WEXLER, FLORIDA
ELIOT L. ENGEL, NEW YORK
BILL DELAHUNT, MASSACHUSETTS
GREGORY W. MEEKS, NEW YORK
DIANE E. WATSON, CALIFORNIA
ADAM SMITH, WASHINGTON
RUSS CARNAHAN, MISSOURI
ALBIO SIRE, NEW JERSEY
GERALD E. CONNOLLY, VIRGINIA
MICHAEL E. McMAHON, NEW YORK
JOHN S. TANNER, TENNESSEE
GENE GREEN, TEXAS
SHEILA JACKSON LEE, TEXAS
BARBARA LEE, CALIFORNIA
SHELLEY BERKLEY, NEVADA
JOSEPH CROWLEY, NEW YORK
MIKE ROSS, ARKANSAS
BRAD MILLER, NORTH CAROLINA
DAVID SCOTT, GEORGIA
JIM COSTA, CALIFORNIA
KEITH ELLISON, MINNESOTA
GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, ARIZONA
RON KLEIN, FLORIDA

RICHARD J. KESSLER
STAFF DIRECTOR

DOUGLAS J. CAMPBELL
DEPUTY STAFF DIRECTOR

DAVID S. ABRAMOWITZ
CHIEF COUNSEL

ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, FLORIDA
RANKING REPUBLICAN MEMBER

ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

TELEPHONE: (202) 225-5021
[HTTP://WWW.FOREIGNAFFAIRS.HOUSE.GOV/](http://www.foreignaffairs.house.gov/)

CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH, NEW JERSEY
DAN BURTON, INDIANA
ELTON GALLEGLY, CALIFORNIA
DANA ROHRBACHER, CALIFORNIA
DONALD A. MANZULLO, ILLINOIS
EDWARD R. ROYCE, CALIFORNIA
RON PAUL, TEXAS
JEFF FLAKE, ARIZONA
MIKE PENCE, INDIANA
JOE WILSON, SOUTH CAROLINA
JOHN BOOZMAN, ARKANSAS
J. GRESHAM BARRETT, SOUTH CAROLINA
CONNIE MACK, FLORIDA
JEFF FORTENBERRY, NEBRASKA
MICHAEL T. McCAUL, TEXAS
TED POE, TEXAS
BOB INGLIS, SOUTH CAROLINA
GUS M. BILIRAKIS, FLORIDA

February 2, 2009

YLEEM D.S. POBLETE
REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR

MARK C. GAGE
REPUBLICAN SENIOR POLICY ADVISOR

DOUGLAS C. ANDERSON
REPUBLICAN CHIEF COUNSEL

His Excellency Mahinda Rajapaksa
President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
c/o His Excellency Jaliya Chitran Wickramasuriya
Embassy of Sri Lanka
2148 Wyoming Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20008

Excellency:

I am writing to express my hopes and concerns with you regarding the humanitarian crisis in Sri Lanka.

I was very pleased to learn of the Action Plan that your Ministry of Justice and UNICEF created along with Tamil Makkal Viduthalai Pulikal (TMVP) leader Karuna to release all remaining child soldiers affiliated with the TMVP. As you may know, Congress passed the Child Soldiers Prevention Act of 2008, as part of the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act, restricting certain types of assistance to governments that employ child soldiers, and I am very hopeful that you will be able to implement the Action Plan in a timely manner.

I also wanted to share my concerns with you over the crisis facing civilians trapped by fighting in the North. I hope you will make the protection of innocent civilians your military's highest priority and that your government will grant to UN agencies and the International Committee of the Red Cross access to these Internally Displaced Persons so that needed food and medical supplies can be delivered. Once in Government-controlled areas, these people should be

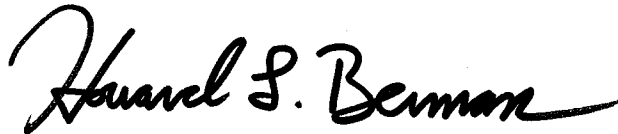
His Excellency Mahinda Rajapaksa
February 2, 2009
Page Two

treated in accordance with international norms and standards. I appreciate the confidence that your brother recently expressed to my Policy Advisor, trust his pledge that your government will improve their plight, and hope that the assistance, advice, and assets provided by the UN and other NGO humanitarian agencies will be gainfully utilized.

I also want to express my desire that the government address the recent attacks against the independent media. The assassination of Lasantha Wickrematunge deeply concerns me, and I expect your government will bring the perpetrators of this crime to justice.

I look forward to further improvements in the situation and continued engagement on these issues. I hope your embassy here in Washington, D.C., continues to keep my staff apprised on your crises and do let me know the next time you are in the United States.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Howard L. Berman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

HOWARD L. BERMAN
Chairman

HLB:ja/mco