

TED W. LIEU  
33RD DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE ON THE  
JUDICIARY

COMMITTEE ON  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-0533**

236 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-3976

5055 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD, SUITE 310  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90036  
(310) 652-3095

1600 ROSECRANS AVENUE, 4TH FLOOR  
MANHATTAN BEACH, CA 90266  
(310) 321-7664

September 25, 2018

The Honorable Nikki Haley  
U.S. Representative to the United Nations  
799 United Nations Plaza  
New York, NY 10017

Dear Amb. Haley:

As members of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, we are writing today to express our grave concerns regarding the continued political fragmentation and deterioration of security in Libya. We urge you to exert the full measure of United States political support for the United Nations reconciliation process for Libya and to discourage partner nations from undermining long-term stability in that country through support of armed proxies or by pursuing alternative agendas.

As you are undoubtedly aware, the persistent instability in Libya continues to threaten the interests of the United States and its allies across the Mediterranean region and within the Sahel. Nearly three times the size of Texas, with land borders longer than the U.S.-Mexico border, Libya's current lawlessness is being exploited by terrorists, human traffickers, and transnational organized crime. These forces are likely to grow if Libya's governing structures remain weak and the ongoing political divisions endure.

As General Thomas Waldhauser, the Commander of U.S. Africa Command, testified before Congress in March 2018, instability in Libya "may be the most significant near-term threat to the U.S.'s and allies' interests on the continent."<sup>i</sup> While meeting with members of our Committee in May, UN Secretary General António Guterres also noted that the Libyan crisis is a top priority for UN negotiators. Moreover, a hearing held by the Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa in April found that foreign interference is perpetuating the political stalemate in Libya.

Our Committee was pleased to hear from Ambassador David Satterfield, Acting Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern Affairs, that it is the Administration's policy to fully support the UN Action Plan for Libya unveiled by Special Representative of the Secretary General Ghassan Salame in September 2017. However, we are concerned by reports of the deteriorating security situation on the ground, continued foreign interference and a lack of progress on the UN Action Plan. Absent urgent support, we believe Libya's current trajectory will result in further destabilization and risks repeating the events of 2014 which effectively split the country in two. Indeed, foreign interference and support for armed factions inside Libya, including by U.S. partners, continues to dissuade Libyan parties from engaging in the UN process in good faith.

In light of these concerning developments, we request that the United States Mission to the United Nations prioritize two immediate steps with regard to Libya:

1. Encourage UN Special Representative Salame and the UN Department of Political Affairs to focus on the action plan's full scope of confidence-building measures, including the implementation of critical economic stabilization measures, regular engagement with the armed groups and agreements by the various factions to hold a referendum on the constitutional draft and a viable election law.
2. Discourage partner nations from undermining the UN's reconciliation process through support of proxy forces inside Libya and violations of the UN arms embargo.

Ultimately, no one aspect of the action plan will ensure that Libya's disparate parties and militias are pushed toward reconciliation. Systematic engagement and aggressive political pressure from the United States and its allies will be necessary to overcome the untenable status quo and salvage the UN process. We urge you and the U.S. Mission to continue prioritizing this portfolio; it is in our national interest to take meaningful diplomatic steps today that may prevent greater instability down the road.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter and your continued service to our nation. We look forward to your response and continued engagement on this portfolio so vital to regional stability and success.

Sincerely,



Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress



Ted Poe  
Member of Congress



Theodore E. Deutch  
Member of Congress



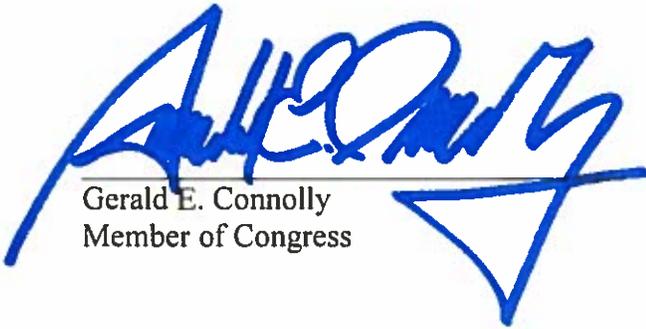
Ileana Ros-Lehtinen  
Member of Congress



David N. Cicilline  
Member of Congress



Steve Chabot  
Member of Congress



Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress

CC:

The Honorable Mike Pompeo, U.S. Secretary of State

---

<sup>1</sup> Senate Committee on Armed Services, Hearing to Receive Testimony on United States Central Command and United States Africa Command, March 9, 2017.