March 9, 2017

The Honorable Rex W. Tillerson
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Tillerson,

We urge you to use all U.S. diplomatic tools to help open the Yemeni port of Hodeida to international humanitarian aid organizations to allow them to import food, fuel and medicine into northern Yemen and save the lives of hundreds of thousands of Yemeni children who face starvation.

The Washington Post reports that "Hundreds of thousands of Yemeni children ... are nearing starvation." Airstrikes by the Saudi-led Coalition ("Coalition") in Hodeida, the main entry point for food, medicine and humanitarian aid into northern Yemen, have made it virtually impossible for humanitarian agencies to deliver supplies. The UN and international aid agencies says that Yemen is "on the brink of famine." Half a million children are severely acutely malnourished. More than 7.3 million people are in need of urgent food assistance.

The Coalition has told humanitarian agencies to redirect shipments to Aden. That would mean food and medicine will need to be trucked from Aden through war zones to reach the millions at risk of starvation in the north. This would be logistically difficult given the precarious security situation; aid trucks would have to pass through as many as one hundred checkpoints to get aid from Aden to northern Yemen. The International Committee of the Red Cross says food reserves are dwindling and international aid agencies are calling on the parties to the conflict to allow food, fuel and medicine into Hodeida port.

The ultimate resolution to Yemen's civil war must be diplomatic, and the U.S. should be encouraging the warring parties to return to the negotiating table. But right now, the U.S. must act urgently to avert famine and employ our diplomatic clout with the Coalition members to ensure that humanitarian goods can get into the port of Hodeida. The lives of hundreds of thousands of children are at stake.

Thank you for your urgent attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress

John Conyers, Jr.  
Member of Congress

James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress

Adam Smith  
Member of Congress

David N. Cicilline  
Member of Congress

Adam Schiff  
Member of Congress

Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress

Gwen Moore  
Member of Congress

Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress

Joseph Crowley  
Member of Congress

Ruben Gallego  
Member of Congress

Keith Ellison  
Member of Congress

Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress

Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress
Betty McCollum
Member of Congress

Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

Emanuel Cleaver
Member of Congress

Jared Polis
Member of Congress

Dwight Evans
Member of Congress

Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress

Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress

Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress

Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress

Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress

Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress

Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress

Judy Chu
Member of Congress
Bobby L. Rush  
Member of Congress

Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress

Anthony G. Brown  
Member of Congress

Carol Shea-Porter  
Member of Congress

Alcee L. Hastings  
Member of Congress

Peter A. DeFazio  
Member of Congress

Donald S. Beyer, Jr.  
Member of Congress

Darren Soto  
Member of Congress

William R. Keating  
Member of Congress

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress

Alan S. Lowenthal  
Member of Congress

Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress

Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Member of Congress

Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress
Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress

Karen Bass  
Member of Congress

Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress

Mark Takano  
Member of Congress

Salud Carbajal  
Member of Congress

Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Member of Congress

Bill Foster  
Member of Congress

Tulsi Gabbard  
Member of Congress

Jackie Speier  
Member of Congress

Louise Slaughter  
Member of Congress
Peter Welch
Member of Congress