

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 16, 2010

The Honorable Luis CdeBaca
Ambassador-at-Large
U.S. Department of State
2201 C St NW
Washington DC 20520

Dear Ambassador CdeBaca:

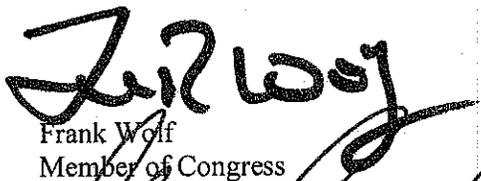
We write today to express our concern over continuing reports of abductions, forced marriages, and exploitation of Coptic women and girls in Egypt. Some of these reports document a criminal phenomenon that includes fraud, physical and sexual violence, captivity, forced marriage, and exploitation in forced domestic servitude or commercial sexual exploitation, and financial benefit to the individuals who secure the forced conversion of the victim. As you know, these are some of the hallmarks of human trafficking.

Numerous reports, including in Egypt's *Al-Ahram Weekly* and a November 2009 report issued by the Coptic Foundation for Human Rights and Christian Solidarity International (CSI), point to the grim reality of forced marriage faced by vulnerable Coptic women and girls in Egypt. In the 25 cases documented by the Coptic Foundation for Human Rights and CSI, it is clear that violence, fraud, and/or coercion are used to force vulnerable Egyptian women and girls into marriages for the purpose of forced conversion, and these forced marriages are sometimes accompanied by sexual exploitation or domestic servitude. In some cases the families involved in the abductions and forced conversions receive mysterious financial benefits. Further, it appears, according to their lawyers, that the situations facing the women highlighted in the report are not isolated cases.

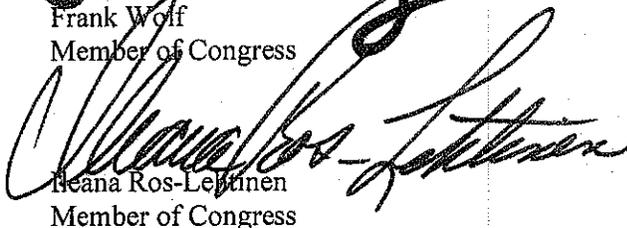
In the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (2008), Congress tasked the Trafficking in Persons (TIP) office with reporting on "emerging [and] shifting global patterns in human trafficking." We respectfully request that the office follow up on the reports coming out of Egypt, investigate whether the cases of abduction, forced marriage, exploitation and other financial benefit to the individuals who secure a forced conversion should be included in the forthcoming 2010 TIP Annual Report, and inform us about your determination on the matter.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Frank Wolf
Member of Congress



Heana Ros-Lehtinen
Member of Congress



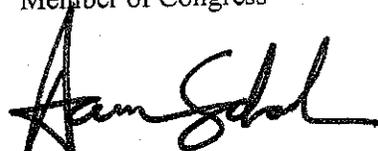
Chris Smith
Member of Congress

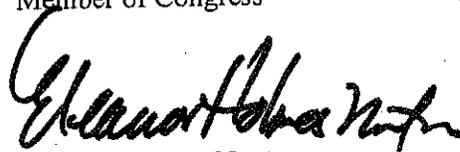


Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress

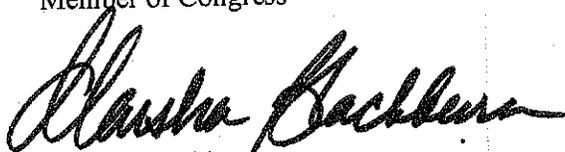

Michele Bachmann
Member of Congress

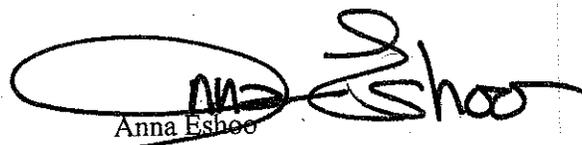

Bob Inglis
Member of Congress

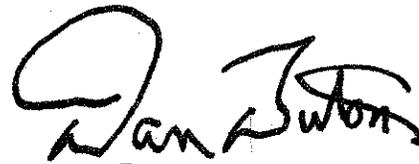

Aaron Schock
Member of Congress


Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

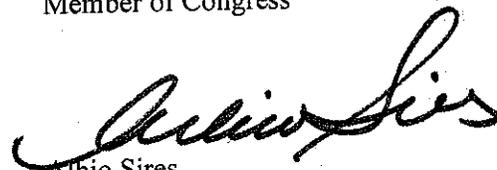

Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress


Marsha Blackburn
Member of Congress

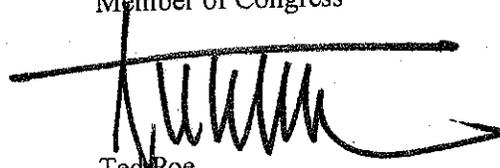

Anna Eshoo
Member of Congress

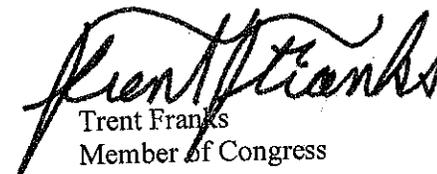

Dan Burton
Member of Congress

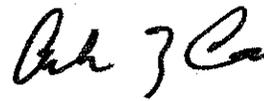

Donald Payne
Member of Congress


Albio Sires
Member of Congress


Joe Wilson
Member of Congress


Ted Poe
Member of Congress


Trent Franks
Member of Congress


Anh "Joseph" Cao
Member of Congress