

Congress of the United States

Washington, D.C. 20515

July 21, 2010

Dear Colleague,

We invite you to join us in sending a letter to Secretary Clinton urging her to call for an independent international investigation into alleged war crimes during Sri Lanka's civil war.

There is significant evidence that both sides may have committed serious abuses during Sri Lanka's 25-year-long civil war, which ended last May. We strongly believe that those allegations must be fully investigated and that only full accountability for past crimes will allow Sri Lanka to move forward toward a future of peace and stability.

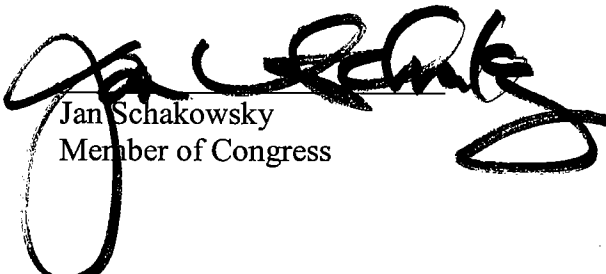
Although the government of Sri Lanka has appointed a Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission, questions about the transparency, impartiality, and insufficient mandate of this body are cause for serious concern. The Commission appears to be the latest in a series of *ad hoc* commissions established more to deflect criticism than to investigate human rights abuses.

An international investigation would help to ensure that the people of Sri Lanka get real answers about any abuses that occurred during the war. Major international human rights organizations, including Human Rights Watch, International Crisis Group, and Amnesty International have all called for an independent investigation, and U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon has appointed a three-member Panel of Experts to advise him on the way forward for accountability in Sri Lanka.

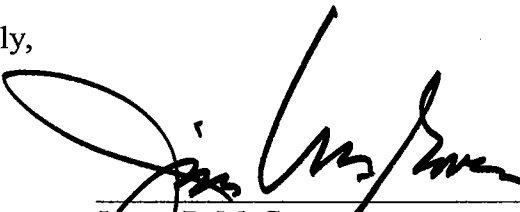
We urge you to join us in asking Secretary Clinton to take a strong stand in support of full accountability for any human rights violations in Sri Lanka.

Please contact Nina Besser (nina.besser@mail.house.gov or x66896) with Rep. Schakowsky for more information. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress