



Hon. Charles Schumer
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Washington, D.C. 20510

Hon. Hillary Clinton
470 Russell Senate Office Building
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Hon. Charles Rangel
2354 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Hon. Jerrold Nadler
2334 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Hon. Carolyn Maloney
United States House of Representatives
2331 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senators and Representatives,

As a member of Amnesty International Group 11, I am writing to urge you to use your influence in developing a course of action to deal with the disastrous conflict in Iraq. The situation has deteriorated into one of the world's greatest current assaults on human rights along with other current catastrophic situations in Darfur, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda. Recent surveys indicate that as many as 600,000 Iraqis have been killed as a result of the conflict and an even greater number displaced.

The situation in Iraq has been variously described as war, civil war or sectarian or religious strife. But the killings for the most part fit within the description of grave human rights violations whether genocide, crimes against humanity or war crimes. As such there is a need for international action to attempt to improve the situation.

The situation has gone far past the point of determining how to deploy United States forces, which have not been able to control the violence and instead are targets of the violence, or to place the burden for correcting the situation on the Iraqi government, which is also unable to control the violence.

The only course open is to put in place an international effort, as has been done in the case of other areas where there has been war or equivalent violence accompanied by human rights violations. In a recent article in Harper's magazine former Senator McGovern and William S. Polk have proposed a temporary international stabilizing force to replace the United States forces serving in Iraq.

International criminal or special tribunals have been established to try human rights violations committed in the territories of the former Yugoslavia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Cambodia and East Timor. The International Criminal Court has jurisdiction with respect to human rights

violations in Uganda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Darfur, has issued arrest warrants for violators in the former two nations and has conducted numerous investigatory missions regarding violations in Darfur. The support of the United Nations has been critical to the Court's activities, including peacekeeping missions, accommodations and transport and regional organizations provide similar forms of support.

A peacekeeping force should be established by the United Nations in Iraq and Iraq should be placed by the United Nations under the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court with the view to making clear, however difficult the goal may be to achieve, that the ongoing grave human rights violations in Iraq will be treated as such and not be viewed or tolerated by the international community as incidents of civil war or internecine strife meriting any lesser concern than the human rights violations that they are.

There is no longer any question that the United States forces must leave Iraq forthwith. It has been said that it is irresponsible to cut and run but that would not be the case if an international plan such as is described above can be put in place. With support of the United States it might be possible to do so concurrently with the withdrawal of United States forces.

Thank you for your consideration and reply.