

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

February 25, 2009

The Honorable Hillary Clinton  
Secretary  
Department of State  
Harry S. Truman Building  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Clinton:

We write to convey our deep concern regarding the recent Thai-Lao announcement that approximately 5,700 Hmong refugees will be forcibly repatriated to Laos by mid-2009.

Thousands of Hmong refugees fled Laos in 1975 due to the threat of violence. A number of our constituents have friends and family members who live in Laos. We continue to hear reports of discrimination and persecution towards Laos's Hmong population.

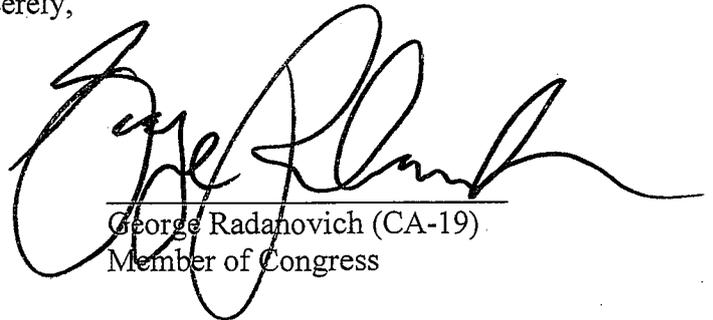
We are therefore concerned that forced repatriation of legitimate Hmong refugees to Laos may be a death sentence for a number of the detainees. We strongly urge you to pressure the Thai government to allow the United Nations High Commission on Refugees access to the detainees in order to determine their refugee status. As a longtime advocate for the Hmong, the United States should remain a leader in seeking protection and assistance for the detainees in Thailand.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. We look forward to hearing from you in the near future about this important issue.

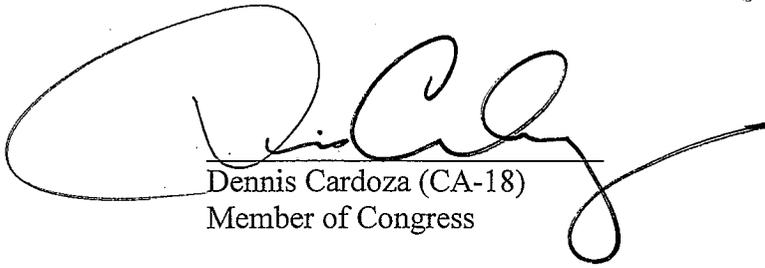
Sincerely,



Ron Kind (WI-03)  
Member of Congress

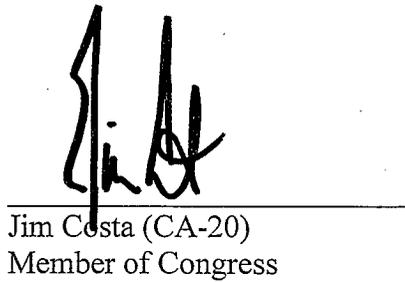


George Radanovich (CA-19)  
Member of Congress



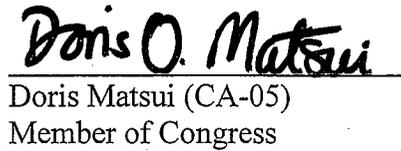
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Dennis Cardoza (CA-18)  
Member of Congress



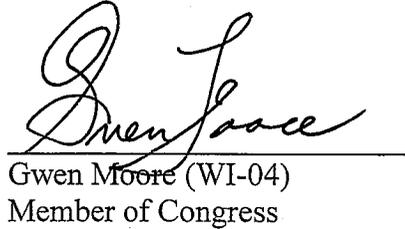
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Jim Costa (CA-20)  
Member of Congress



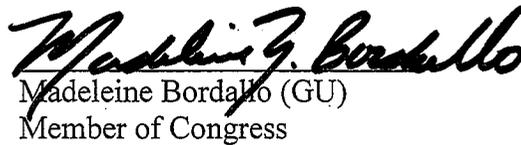
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Doris Matsui (CA-05)  
Member of Congress



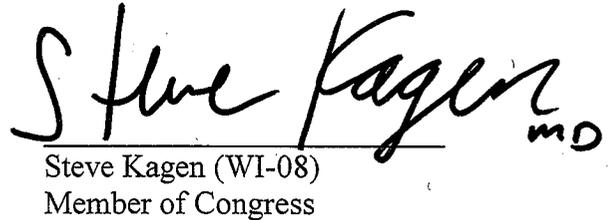
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Gwen Moore (WI-04)  
Member of Congress



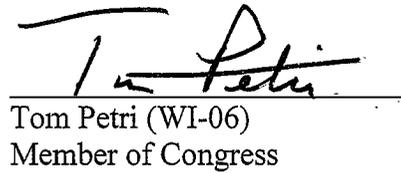
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Madeleine Bordallo (GU)  
Member of Congress



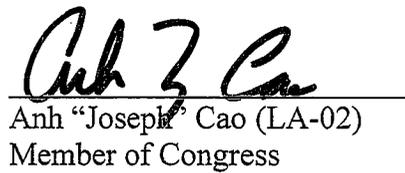
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Steve Kagen (WI-08)  
Member of Congress



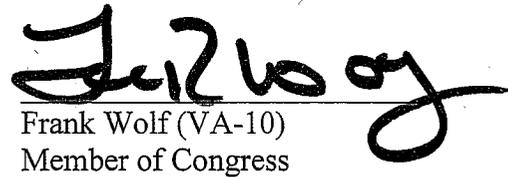
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Tom Petri (WI-06)  
Member of Congress



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Anh "Joseph" Cao (LA-02)  
Member of Congress



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Frank Wolf (VA-10)  
Member of Congress



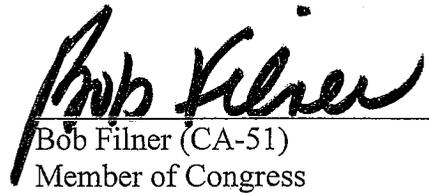
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Michael Honda (CA-15)  
Member of Congress



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Raul Grijalva (AZ-07)  
Member of Congress



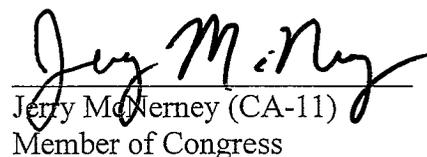
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Bob Filner (CA-51)  
Member of Congress



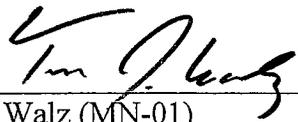
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Thaddeus McCotter (MI-11)  
Member of Congress



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Jerry McNerney (CA-11)  
Member of Congress



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Tim Walz (MN-01)  
Member of Congress



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Patrick Kennedy (RI-01)  
Member of Congress



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Tammy Baldwin (WI-02)  
Member of Congress