

January 10, 2012

The Honorable John Kerry
Chairman
Foreign Relations Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Lugar
Ranking Member
Foreign Relations Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Carl Levin
Chairman
Armed Services Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John McCain
Ranking Member
Armed Services Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Chairman
Foreign Affairs Committee
U.S. House of Representatives 20515

The Honorable Howard Berman
Ranking Member
Foreign Affairs Committee
U.S. House of Representatives 20515

The Honorable Buck McKeon
Chairman
Armed Services Committee
U.S. House of Representatives 20515

The Honorable Adam Smith
Ranking Member
Armed Services Committee
U.S. House of Representatives 20515

Dear Senators Kerry, Lugar, Levin and McCain and Representatives Ros-Lehtinen, Berman, McKeon and Smith:

We are writing to ask you - as the legislators with primary oversight responsibility for the Department of State and the Pentagon - to call upon the Obama Administration to investigate and publicly report to Congress regarding Turkey's compliance with the Arms Export Control Act of 1976 and other relevant U.S. laws, in regard to the December 28, 2011 Turkish airstrike that killed as many as 35 innocent Kurdish boys and young men along Turkey's border with the Kurdistan Regional Government of Iraq.

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As you have likely seen, press accounts, in the Associated Press, Economist, Boston Globe, Radio Free Europe, and elsewhere, have reported that this attack was conducted by U.S.-supplied F-16s, guided by aerial drone intelligence. In light of these widely reported accounts indicating the possible use of U.S. arms - and in the context of both the horrendous human costs of this particular attack and the history of Turkey's having long used its military arsenal against civilian populations - we call upon you to request that the Administration investigate this matter. We also ask that you request that the Administration submit an immediate public report to Congress on any potential violations of U.S. law in connection with these killings.

Thank you for your leadership on human rights and for all your service in government promoting U.S. interests and advancing American values in the international arena.

Sincerely,

Nick Larigakis
President
American Hellenic Institute

Kani Xulam
Executive Director
American Kurdish Information Network

Aram Hamparian
Executive Director
Armenian National Committee of America

Dr. Pary Karadaghi
President
Kurdish Human Rights Watch

Dr. Kamal Artin
President
Kurdish National Congress of North America

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