

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 27, 2013

The Honorable John Kerry
Secretary of State
Department of State
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Kerry:

We are writing to express our deep concern about the dire situation in the Central African Republic (CAR). We appreciate the interest and actions taken by the Administration in response to this crisis, including efforts to provide, \$40 million in assistance to the African Union-led International Support Mission to the Central African Republic (MISCA). We urge the State Department to move swiftly to further engage and support international efforts to stop the violence, protect civilians from mass atrocities, prevent increased regional instability and conflict, and help the country move forward on path toward reconciliation and democratic governance.

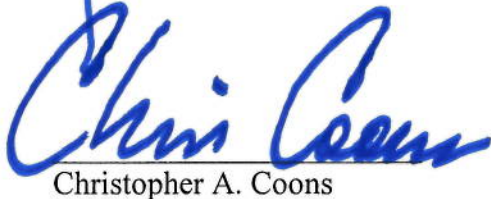
The complexity and rapid deterioration of this crisis requires a comprehensive, integrated and multi-dimensional international response. The United States has a clear national security interest in a stable CAR and the surrounding region, which has been plagued by violent conflict. The chaos in CAR has already displaced about 460,000 Central Africans, including 68,000 who have fled to neighboring countries in recent months. According to the UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, approximately half the population is in need of humanitarian assistance. Additionally, CAR's inability to control its borders has allowed Chadian and Sudanese to join the Seleka rebels and provided a safe haven for regional militia groups, the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), and heavily armed Sudanese poachers. U.S. leadership has been critical in preventing atrocities by the LRA in southeastern CAR, but these efforts and the substantial gains that have been made risk being eclipsed by the escalating violence and instability at the national level.

We are unified in calling for the State Department to continue to engage with key actors, including the United Nations, African Union, Economic Community of Central African States, European Union and the Government of France to jointly work to mitigate this crisis and address root causes of conflict in CAR. Security is an essential prerequisite to civilian protection and the establishment of democratic governance. While moving urgently to support security, we urge the U.S. Administration, in coordination with international partners, to redouble efforts to provide humanitarian relief throughout the country and begin supporting nascent reconciliation and governance efforts, including interfaith dialogue at local levels to mitigate intercommunal violence, which are necessary to build governance structures once security gains have created space for progress.

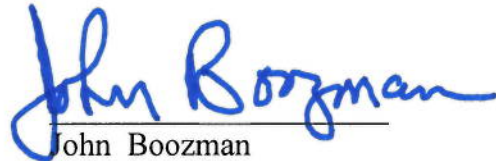
While it is too late to reverse the terrible suffering and destruction that has already occurred in CAR, the United States has both a moral and strategic imperative to move quickly with significant and meaningful support to avoid ongoing human suffering and regional conflict.

We look forward to working with you to help end the instability in CAR and to protect and advance U.S. national security interests in the region.

Sincerely,



Christopher A. Coons



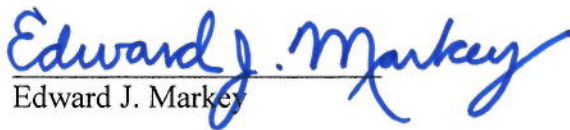
John Boozman



Richard Durbin



James R. Inhofe



Edward J. Markey



Jerry Moran



Bob Corker