

September 19, 2000

Honorable Benjamin Gilman  
Honorable Sam Gejdenson  
Committee on International Relations  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ben and Dear Sam:

I too am concerned with the safety of United States servicemen abroad. But I am confident that we will be able to protect them. And so, bringing a war criminal to justice remains urgent.

Fifty years ago, the United States led the world in the prosecution of Nazi leaders for the atrocities of World War II. The triumph of Nuremburg was not only that individuals were held accountable for their crimes, but that they were tried in a court of law supported by the community of nations. Before you today in committee is a bill that would erase this legacy of US leadership by ensuring that the US will never again join the community of nations to hold accountable those who commit war crimes and genocide.

A vote for this legislation would signal US acceptance of impunity for the world's worst atrocities. For the memory of the victims of past genocide and war crimes, I urge you to use your positions as Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the House Committee on International Relations to see that this legislation is not passed.

Sincerely,

Elie Wiesel