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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

July 5, 2014

SENIOR MEMBER, FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
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CHAIRMAN, AFRICA, GLOBAL HEALTH,  
GLOBAL HUMAN RIGHTS, AND  
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS  
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CO-CHAIRMAN, COMMISSION ON SECURITY  
AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE

CO-CHAIRMAN, CONGRESSIONAL-EXECUTIVE  
COMMISSION ON CHINA

DEAN, NEW JERSEY DELEGATION

To the Nigerian Diaspora in America:

It is my pleasure to join you today in expressing our unified support for the thousands of Boko Haram victims in Nigeria. Please know of my continuing commitment to seeing that the United States provides appropriate and effective help in the struggle against the plague of this terrorist group.

Some of you may know that last year, I authored legislation, H.R. 3209, to prod the Obama Administration to issue the designation of Boko Haram as a Foreign Terrorist Organization, which is intended to isolate and deter their activities. In addition to advancing this designation—finally issued on November 13, 2013—I have visited Nigeria several times in recent years, including twice during the last nine months, to discuss U.S. support in the fight against Boko Haram with U.S. and Nigerian government officials. These human rights fact-finding missions have helped make a material difference in how the U.S.-Nigerian partnership is being implemented, and I am hopeful that continued support will lead to improved conditions for the people of Nigeria.

Having met with a number of the victims of Boko Haram—such the father who mourns the loss of his daughter, kidnapped from Chibok, and one of the girls from Chibok who escaped her captors and now prays for the safe return of her schoolmates—it is imperative that we continue and redouble our efforts to help bring relief.

Through my leadership as chairman of the House Subcommittee on Africa, we are working on many fronts including:

- A hearing next Thursday on human rights vetting to identify obstacles to the U.S. training of military and security units to contend with the Boko Haram threat.
- Efforts to strengthen investigation, identification and prosecution of those hiding in the shadows while providing material and logistical support for Boko Haram.
- Exploring, with Nigerian officials, the possibility of a fund to help victims of Boko Haram to rebuild churches and mosques that are destroyed and help families who lose breadwinners, businesses and even their homes.

Please keep up the good work. Your letters, e-mails and phone calls to the Administration and Congressional officials in support of these matters are critical to the success of our joint efforts to help Nigeria end the long nightmare that is Boko Haram.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Christopher H. Smith  
Member of Congress