

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

May 1, 2008

The Honorable Condoleezza Rice
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20003

Dear Secretary Rice:

On Monday, April 21, Reverend Phillip Miles was sentenced to more than three years in a Russian prison for not disclosing a \$25 box of hunting ammunition packed safely in his suitcase when traveling in Russia. Rev. Miles was intending to visit a fellow pastor in Perm, Russia, and had brought the hunting rounds to be a gift for his colleague. We are appalled by the decision of the Russian court, and urge you to use all diplomatic tools to see that Rev. Miles' sentence is overturned and he be allowed to return to the United States immediately.

While Rev. Miles admitted to violating the Russian restriction, his crime hardly qualified for the harsh sentence he received. Additionally, the Russian court failed to address that nowhere in its customs zone is any declaration that ammunition must be declared. It is imperative to protect American citizens at home and abroad when they are treated unjustly. Rev. Miles is neither an international arms smuggler nor a threat to the Russian society; he is a pastor who has made more than 12 humanitarian trips to Russia, and his sentence should reflect that.

Again, we encourage you to use diplomatic resources to ensure that Rev. Miles is able to return home as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

John T. Doolittle

Virginia Foxe

Wally Harger

Steve Carter

Raylett MD6

Virgil Boyd

Myrtle

Frank Stank

Doug Semler CO-5

Thomas

Patricia L. McNeely NC-10

Anda Cernan

Gary Will

Glenn Kirk

Doug Walden

Scott Davis

Devin Nemes

Ki Wain

George Polkovich

Jerry Lewis

Tom Fisher

Frank Harris

Bill Lucas OK-3

Mary Bonomaek

Ken Calvert

Sam Cole OK-4

Lang Rellberg MT At Large

John Sull OK 1

Dan Burton Ind 5

Shelburne Ind 6

Sam Johnson

R. R. R.

Ed Royce

Kay Jones

Tom Lewis

R. R. R.

Buck McLean

Mary Fuller

Mike

Marilyn Musgrave Co-04

Tom Davis

Chad [unclear]

MS [unclear]

~~Bob [unclear]~~

Al Smith

Ann [unclear] T4.2

Frank [unclear]

Bob [unclear] TX1

Donald Marshall

W. H. [unclear] CA49

Ralph M. Hall

Joe Barton

James [unclear]

Henry [unclear]

Ed Whitfield

Carol [unclear]

David [unclear]

Scott Garrett

Jeff [unclear]

Ray [unclear]

