Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 3, 2014

The Honorable John Kerry
Secretary
Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20520

The Honorable James B. Comey
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigations
935 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20535-0001

The Honorable Kathy Buller
Inspector General
Peace Corps
1111 20th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20526

Dear Mr. Secretary, Director Comey, and Inspector General Buller:

We write to you in regards to Kate Puzey, a Peace Corps Volunteer killed in the service of her country, and to respectfully request actions needed to achieve justice for Kate and her family.

Kate Puzey was a model American citizen. The daughter of Department of Defense employees, Kate served as Student Council President in high school and graduated Valedictorian. In college she mentored under-privileged children, and worked with refugees after graduating. Finally, Kate joined the U.S. Peace Corps in 2007, serving as a teacher in the West African nation of Benin. Tragically, on March 12, 2009, Kate Puzey was found brutally murdered, shortly after reporting a Peace Corps contractor for sexually abusing several girls at her school. She was 24 years old.

In 2011 Congress unanimously passed the Kate Puzey Peace Corps Volunteer Protection Act—crafted with strong bipartisan support in both chambers—to better protect future Volunteers and help address issues related to Kate's death. Yet despite helping to make the Peace Corps experience safer for others, the Puzey family is still awaiting justice for their daughter five years after her murder. The government of Benin has held suspects since 2009, but it has yet to successfully collect the necessary evidence to secure a conviction and the case has stalled. This lack of progress in justice for an American citizen is both deeply disappointing and unacceptable. We believe however there is a clear precedent for how the case could still be solved.

In 1998, another Peace Corps Volunteer in Gabon, Karen Phillips, was also found murdered, and for 14 years the investigation was also stalled. However in late 2012, with facilitation from the U.S. Ambassador to Gabon, the Peace Corps Office of Inspector General, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the U.S. Department of State's Diplomatic Security Service came to Gabon to assist the Gabonese judicial police in the reinvestigation of Karen Phillips' murder. Thanks to this help from the United States, after 14 years of delay, the murder was finally solved in under a month. In November 2013 a Gabonese criminal court sentenced the offender to life in prison for Phillips' murder.

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We hope that our government will make every effort and devote every resource to achieve justice for Kate Puzey as it did successfully for Karen Phillips. More specifically, we respectfully request that:

(i) The Peace Corps Office of Inspector General, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and U.S. Department of State's Diplomatic Security Service work collaboratively to develop a comprehensive plan on how to resolve Kate Puzey's murder.

(ii) A reinvestigation team be sent to Benin without delay to both investigate the murder of Kate Puzey and assist the Beninese government's efforts to resolve the murder case.

(iii) The reinvestigation team include a Special Agent who has a record of successfully solving cold cases in Africa as well as experienced personnel from the Peace Corps Office of Inspector General and Department of State's Diplomatic Security Service.

Thank you for attention to this important matter and for your consideration of these requests.

Sincerely,

Representative Ted Poe

Senator Johnny Isakson

Representative Sam Farr

Senator Barbara Boxer

Representative Frank Wolf

Senator Lamar Alexander

Representative Mike Honda

Senator Kelly Ayotte

Representative Mark Amodei

Senator Tammy Baldwin

Senator John Barrasso

Senator Ben Cardin

Senator Mark Begich

Senator Robert P. Casey, Jr.

Senator Michael Bennet

Senator Saxby Chambliss

Senator Richard Blumenthal

Senator Dan Coats

Senator Roy Blunt

Senator Tom Coburn

Senator Cory A. Booker

Senator Susan Collins

Senator John Boozman

Senator Christopher A. Coons

Senator Sherrod Brown

Senator Bob Corker

Senator Richard Burr

Senator John Cornyn

Senator Mike Crapo

Senator Charles E. Grassley

Senator Ted Cruz

Senator Lindsey Graham

Senator Richard Durbin

Senator Tom Harkin

Senator Michael B. Enzi

Senator Orrin G. Hatch

Senator Dianne Feinstein

Senator Martin Heinrich

Senator Deb Fischer

Senator Mazie Hirono

Senator Jeff Flake

Senator John Hoeven

Senator Al Franken

Senator James Inhofe

Senator Kirsten Gillibrand

Senator Mike Johanns

Senator Ron Johnson

Senator Robert Menendez

Senator Mark Steven Kirk

Senator Barbara Mikulski

Senator Amy Klobuchar

Senator Jerry Moran

Senator Patrick Leahy

Senator Lisa Murkowski

Senator Mike Lee

Senator Christopher Murphy

Senator Edward J. Markey

Senator Patty Murray

Senator John McCain

Senator Bill Nelson

Senator Claire McCaskill

Senator Rand Paul

Senator Mitch McConnell

Senator Rob Portman

Senator James Risch

Senator Jon Tester

Senator Marco Rubio

Senator John Thune

Senator Bernard Sanders

Senator Patrick J. Toomey

Senator Brian Schatz

Senator Mark Udall

Senator Charles E. Schumer

Senator Tom Udall

Senator Jeff Sessions

Senator David Vitter

Senator Jeanne Shaheen

Senator Mark Warner

Senator Richard Shelby

Senator Elizabeth Warren

Senator Debbie Stabenow

Senator Sheldon Whitehouse

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Senator Pat Roberts

Senator Ron Wyden

Senator Jack Reed

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Representative Judy Chu

Representative Stanford Bishop Jr.

Representative Katherine Clark

Representative Diane Black

Representative William Lacy Clay

Representative Earl Blumenauer

Representative Doug Collins

Representative Madeleine Bordallo

Representative Gerald Connolly

Representative Paul Broun

Representative Paul Cook

Representative Julia Brownley

Representative Jim Costa

Representative Peter DeFazio

Representative Phil Gingrey

Representative Ted Deutch

Representative Louie Gohmert

Representative Lloyd Doggett

Representative Tom Graves

Representative Keith Ellison

Representative Janice Hahn

Representative William Enyart

Representative Jared Huffman

Representative Eni Faleomavaega

Representative Duncan Hunter

Representative Tulsi Gabbard

Representative Joseph Kennedy

Representative John Garamendi

Representative Derek Kilmer

Representative Chris Gibson

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Representative Betty McCollum

Representative Eleanor Holmes Norton

Representative Jim McDermott

Representative Devin Nunes

Representative Ed Perlmutter

Representative Bobby Rush

Representative Scott Peters

Representative Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan

Representative Chellie Pingree

Representative Loretta Sanchez

Representative David Price

Representative Jan Schakowsky

Representative Charles Rangel

Representative Adam Schiff

Representative Tom Reed

Representative Brad Schneider

Representative Dana Rohrabacher

Representative Brad Sherman

Representative Lucille Roybal-Allard

Representative Albio Sires

Representative Raul Ruiz

Representative Louise Slaughter

Representative Adam Smith

Representative Tim Walberg

Representative Jackie Speier

Representative Randy Weber

Representative Mark Takano

Representative Peter Welch

Representative John F. Tierney

Representative Lynn Westmoreland

Representative Glenn Thompson

Representative Rob Woodall

Representative Mike Thompson

Representative John Yarmuth

Representative Paul D. Tonko

Representative Ted Yoho

Representative Niki Tsongas

Representative Eliot Engel

Representative Chris Van Hollen

Representative Ileana Ros-Lehtinen

Representative Henry Waxman

Representative Anna Eshoo

Representative Hank Johnson

Representative Mario Diaz-Balart

Representative Susan Brooks