

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

August 13, 2021

The Honorable Anthony J. Blinken  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C St. NW  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Blinken,

We write to you today to express our concerns regarding the deteriorating situation in Sri Lanka as cases of COVID-19 continue to rise and resources are stretched to their limits. Sri Lanka is currently experiencing more than 3,200 new cases daily, with 100 deaths per day on average, which is more than double the death rate of last week. While the vaccination rate has been somewhat successful, the country has only administered vaccines to 31.6% of the population. We urge you to take swift action to provide valuable support to the Sri Lankan people in their time of need.

As the surge that began at the end of June continued to rise during the first weekend of August, the Sri Lankan government was forced to hold mass cremations as hospitals in Colombo ran out of freezer space for those who had passed away from the virus. There are reports that crematoria are working around the clock to deal with the rising number of corpses inundating the country's morgues and that some hotels are being converted to makeshift hospitals. The Sri Lankan Medical Association has pleaded with President Rajapaksa to find solutions for the lack of medical facilities to treat those infected with COVID and to address the unorganized response to the rapid escalation in cases affecting the country due to the Delta variant.

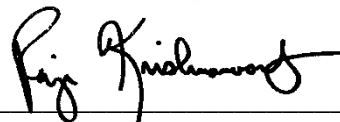
To that end, we request that the State Department rapidly increase medical assistance to Sri Lanka by specifically providing temporary mobile medical units in critical districts around the country to assist the health authorities in addressing the serious situation. In the past, the United States has provided critical assistance to Sri Lanka when the nation faced emergency situations and now during this critical hour, we must again take the lead to provide support in setting up vital medical units for a trusted and strategic partner.

We greatly appreciate your expedited attention to this manner and look forward to your response.

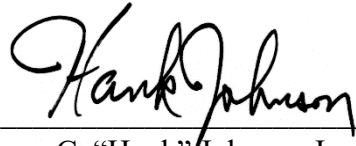
Sincerely,



Dina Titus  
Member of Congress

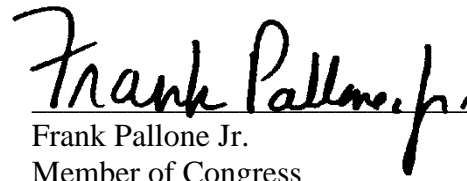


Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Member of Congress

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Henry C. "Hank" Johnson Jr  
Member of Congress

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Frank Pallone Jr.  
Member of Congress