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HOMELAND SECURITY

Nita M. Lowey
Congress of the United States
 18th District, New York

Remarks of Representative Nita Lowey
 EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES TO HAITI
 House of Representatives
 January 20, 2010

Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of House Resolution 1021, with appreciation for the leadership of Barbara Lee, a member of my subcommittee; and Donald Payne; and sincere condolences for the victims of last Tuesday's tragic earthquake and continuing aftershocks. Yet another natural disaster has devastated this country and its people. My deep sympathy and prayers are with the people of Haiti and all those who have lost loved ones.

As the resolution notes, the U.S. Government and the American people stand in solidarity with the Haitian people and are committed to helping them in this great time of need. The intense challenges of delivering humanitarian relief are compounded in Haiti by weak infrastructure and government institutions that cannot provide the necessary support for relief.

I commend the swift response by the Obama administration, especially USAID, the State Department, HHS, the Department of Defense, as well as the international community, to quickly mobilize humanitarian and disaster relief in a complex humanitarian disaster.

I also want to acknowledge the outstanding work of many, many other countries; and I want to particularly commend Israel for its immediate response with search and rescue teams, fully equipped hospitals and doctors, Doctors Without Borders, and thousands of NGOs.

Lastly, in addition to the thousands of NGOs, I want to commend a group started by Danielle Butin in my district that has been collecting medical supplies and shipping containers daily with the help of many, many volunteers. This is a job for all of us, and I am very, very pleased that there are so many governments and individuals who are working to relieve this terrible, terrible effect of the disaster.

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