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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6175

November 14, 2011

The Honorable Hillary Clinton
Secretary of State
United States Department of State
2201 C Street Northwest
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Clinton:

As ranking member of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee and a member of the Foreign Relations Committee, I am writing to request that the Department of State – in the lead up to the climate negotiations in Durban, South Africa – launch an independent investigation of alleged human rights abuses that have resulted from policies sanctioned by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto Protocol. These apparent violations were reasonably foreseeable by all parties, and if steps are not taken to address the corruption underlying the carbon market, we are likely to see further exploitation and crimes perpetrated against the poor in the developing world.

UNFCCC and Kyoto policy, motivated by greed and in the name of saving the planet, appear to have placed greater value in offsetting European greenhouse gas emissions than in promoting the livelihood of poor farmers in Africa and Latin America. In Uganda, for example, 20,000 farmers were brutally kicked off their lands to allow a UK company to plant trees for carbon credit, according to the September report issued by the group Oxfam. Armed guards reportedly burned houses to the ground, which at least in one case resulted in the death of a child. According to one victim who was interviewed by Oxfam investigators, her family was beaten by soldiers and no longer has enough food to eat (*See http://www.oxfamamerica.org/files/land-and-power-220911-en.pdf*). In Honduras, UNFCCC-sanctioned palm oil mills have stolen farmland and murdered 23 farmers and their families between January 2010 and March 2011, according to a report by the International Fact-Finding Mission that was presented to the European Parliament. Private security guards employed by these mills were reported to be directly involved, feigning accidents and shooting farmers. (*See http://www.euractiv.com/sites/all/euractiv/files/Honduras-FFM-Report-Bajo-Aguan.pdf*). I urge our State Department to determine the validity and scope of these allegations, and work tenaciously to ensure that any reports of human rights abuses are adequately addressed without delay.

In addition to these alleged crimes, some governments have been seeking credit or recognition by the UNFCCC and its related protocols and agreements for using population control as a way to mitigate greenhouse gases. China, for example, is seeking climate credit for its national policies on family planning. According to the government of China's 2007 National Climate

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Change Program, "Since the implementation of the family planning program, over 300 million births have been averted nationally by 2005…Averted births have resulted in an annual reduction of CO_2 emissions by about 1.3 billion tons in 2005." (*See http://www.ccchina.gov.cn/WebSite/CCChina/UpFile/File188.pdf*). This so-called 'One Child Policy' has been implicated in deplorable human rights abuses, including forced abortions and female infanticide, and should not be sanctioned by the international community as a strategy in mitigating climate change. I urge the State Department to use its influence to block any country from gaining such credit. The United States should not turn a blind eye to climate proponents pushing an agenda that views "humanity" as the "enemy."

As you know, there is no chance of any climate treaty being ratified by the United States Senate in the foreseeable future – particularly one that directly or indirectly sanctions human rights violations. If these disturbing trends continue under the UNFCCC, the Framework will certainly become inconsistent with the laws of our land, including the United States Constitution. If they are not resolved speedily and satisfactorily, I will call for the United States to withdraw from the UNFCCC, which, in my opinion, would put a stop to these deplorable acts against the world's poor and defenseless.

Sincerely,

James M. Inhofe
United States Senator