

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20500



Dear President Obama,

The flow of millions of conventional weapons into the hands of war criminals and human rights abusers is threatening the safety of countless children, women, and men worldwide. They are facing horrific violence every day and enduring losses that no one should have to bear.

We ask that you support a robust Arms Trade Treaty that vigorously defends human rights. The treaty should be comprehensive in scope, prohibit arms transfers that facilitate atrocities, and prevent the transfer of arms when there is a substantial risk they will be used for human rights abuse or war crimes.

For more than 10 years, the international community has worked to create momentum for a strong Arms Trade Treaty to address this crisis. We came close to a final agreement last July when UN member states sat down to finalize the text. As you know, consensus was blocked by the United States and others in the final hours of negotiations, all asking for more time. During the months since the treaty was tabled, hundreds of thousands more have been killed, and millions more displaced from their homes.

The time to agree to and sign a strong Arms Trade Treaty is now.

A new round – and hopefully final round – of talks begin at the United Nations in New York on March 18. We urge you to ensure the U.S. government's steadfast engagement and support for a treaty that brings restraint to this dangerous trade by keeping guns and ammunition out of the hands of those who care little for the human rights of others, and who kill and terrorize for their own gain. It will make our world safer for everyone, including every American.

The world looks to the United States to lead on human rights. Now is the time for us to demonstrate that leadership by endorsing the Arms Trade Treaty. As Americans of conscience, we have a responsibility to ensure that children and their families, wherever they are, can live free of violence.

Your support on this critical moment in our long battle for responsible arms trade will be felt by millions around the world.

Sincerely,

Michael Apted / Director
Jackson Browne / Musician, Activist
Nels Cline / Musician (Wilco)
Kristin Davis / Actor
Noah Emmerich / Actor
Shelley Fabares / Actor
Mike Farrell / Actor, Producer
Djimon Hounsou / Actor
Angelique Kidjo / Musician
Q'orianka Kilcher / Actor

Lynn Nottage / Playwright
Rooney Mara / Actor
Yoko Ono / Artist, Peace Activist
Tim Roth / Actor
Deborah Santana / Philanthropist
Russell Simmons / Business Magnate, Philanthropist
Chad Stokes / Musician (State Radio, Dispatch)
Anna Torv / Actor
Ed Zwick / Director