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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3603

October 4, 2010

His Excellency President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, GCFR
President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria
State House, Abuja, FCT
Nigeria

Dear President Goodluck,

I am writing to express my support for the 5th International Conference on Human Rights and Prison Reform. This conference is sponsored by International CURE (Citizens United for Rehabilitation of Errants) and will be held in Abuja, Nigeria, February 21-24, 2011.

CURE, an international charitable organization, is dedicated to prison reform and seeks to address the problems of prison overcrowding and the devastating spread of HIV-AIDS among the incarcerated, especially on the African continent. The conference will specifically discuss how prisons and jails can become public health opportunities for African governments, where those incarcerated under humane and sanitary conditions can be released in good health, and thus stem one of the causes of the spread of HIV/AIDS among the general population.

The purpose of this Conference and the work of CURE reminds me of the teaching of Jesus in Matthew 25:39:40 when he asked his disciples why they had not visited him when he was sick or in prison. They said that they had not known of his sickness or imprisonment. Jesus responded by saying his statement was symbolic, and a message to care for their fellow man in whatever state he may be in, as 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it for one of the least of our brothers, you did it for me.'

I visit Africa frequently and have observed that organizations like CURE can be of great assistance to governments, and I encourage you or members of your government to attend the conference. I understand that representatives from the Political and Human Rights offices of the U.S. Embassy will be in attendance, and that U.S. Ambassador Sanders may attend. Mr. Sylvester Uhaa is the coordinator of the CURE conference and also serves as the Executive Director of CURE-Nigeria. He would welcome your attendance and participation. He can be reached at curenigeria@yahoo.com. General information and registration for the conference can be found at: www.internationalcure.org.

It is my hope that you and your government will do all that you can to make this conference a success and continue to place emphasis on prison reform.

Sincerely,



James M. Inhofe
United States Senator