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August 11, 2017

## *By Email and U.S. Mail*

Mr. Ian Catlett  
Attorney-Adviser  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20520

*Re: Bakari Henderson*

Dear Mr. Catlett:

This Firm represents Phil and Jill Henderson, the parents of Bakari Henderson. As we are sure you know, Bakari was brutally beaten to death on July 7, 2017, in Zakynthos, Greece. We write to communicate the Henderson family's request that the United States Government deploy all necessary resources and undertake every effort to ensure that Bakari's killers are brought to justice.

Bakari Henderson was a model American citizen with an exceptionally bright future. Born and raised in Austin, Texas, he was popular among his peers, excelled in school, and was loved by his family and community. He attended the Eller College of Management at the University of Arizona on a full academic scholarship and graduated on May 12, 2017 with a B.S. in Business Finance and Entrepreneurship. Bakari also interned with the Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives and with the Texas State Senate in the summer of 2014. His entrepreneurial spirit led him to Greece, where he was working on a photo shoot for a new clothing line that he was developing. Bakari was curious about the world and outgoing with new people. He is consistently described by those who knew him as a leader with a voice of reason who was fun-loving, peaceful, and calm.

On the night of his death, Bakari was with other Americans at a bar. A group of men confronted him for reasons we do not know. When he fled the bar in fear, the men chased after him. Video footage shows the mob savagely beating Bakari in the street, repeatedly kicking and punching him as he lies defenseless on the ground. Bakari died of the severe head

injuries he sustained in the beating. He was only 22 years old. Bakari's family is devastated by their loss, but resolved that his memory live on and that the world come to know him as the compassionate, friendly, inquisitive, intelligent young man he was.

Greek authorities are conducting an investigation into Bakari's death. Nine people have been arrested, including two employees of the bar where the incident began. We understand that two of the suspects have been released on bail and the rest are in custody. We do not know if there are additional suspects yet to be identified. Mr. and Mrs. Henderson are actively participating in the investigation as victims of the crime through their Greek counsel, Mr. Andreas Patsis.

It is imperative that the investigation into Bakari's murder be vigorous, fair, and complete. We call upon the State Department to take all available measures to help ensure the impartiality and thoroughness of the investigation.

All those who bear responsibility for Bakari's death should be held accountable. This includes the attackers themselves, any employer who may be responsible for the actions of his employees, authorities who may not have provided adequate security in the area, and any person who may have failed to intervene to stop the beating. The investigation should fully explore the attackers' motives, including any potential bias or hatred, and should determine whether Bakari received appropriate emergency services and medical treatment after the incident.

We know that the State Department is deeply committed to ensuring the safety and fair treatment of American citizens traveling abroad. The Henderson family is grateful for all of the assistance it has already received from American consular personnel in Greece. We hope and trust that the State Department will continue to honor its mission by doing all it can to support the Henderson family in seeking justice for Bakari.

We hope that this letter is the beginning of an ongoing dialogue with you and your colleagues. As swift action is required, we would be appreciative of beginning our dialogue within the next week. If there is a particular designee who can be available to our Firm and the Henderson family as this process moves forward, please let us know so that appropriate lines of communication can be maintained.

Thank you very much for your attention to this extremely serious matter. Please do not hesitate to contact us at any time.

Sincerely yours,



Earl S. Ward  
Jonathan S. Abady  
Douglas E. Lieb

- c. Consul General Rosemary Macray  
United States Embassy, Athens, Greece