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The Honorable Michael Pompeo
United States Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C St. NW
Washington, DC 20520

December 10, 2018

Dear Secretary Pompeo,

I write with great concern regarding reports that a British diplomat's husband has evaded charges of domestic violence in New York because of diplomatic immunity. I strongly urge you to request that Britain waive diplomatic immunity in this case so that a thorough investigation can be conducted and charges be filed if warranted.

According to media reports, on the morning of December 8th, NYPD officers responded to a call in my Congressional district from an unnamed British diplomat who reported that her husband, Youssef Amrouche had assaulted her. When police arrived, the woman displayed redness and swelling on her face, clear signs of assault and battery. After a short confrontation in which an officer's hand was injured from a door slammed by Mr. Amrouche, he was arrested but subsequently released because his wife's diplomatic immunity extended to him.

While I respect the importance of diplomatic immunity and the protection it provides our diplomats abroad, there are avenues available to ensure it is not abused, which includes the ability of a country to waive immunity in certain circumstances. With this in mind, I strongly urge you to request that Britain waive diplomatic immunity for Mr. Amrouche and ensure that he remains in the United States until his case is fully investigated and adjudicated, according to the laws of our country. Diplomatic immunity cannot be a license to commit domestic abuse and it is incumbent upon the United States to make it clear that we will do everything possible to make sure that anyone who commits this heinous crime on our shores is held accountable for their actions.

Thank you for your timely attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress

Cc: Sir Nigel Kim Darroch, British Ambassador to the United States
Dame Karen Piece, permanent representative of the United Kingdom to the United Nations