

1651 Lerner Hall  
New York, NY 10027-8308  
mlc67@columbia.edu

September 16, 2001

The Honorable Charles B. Rangel  
2354 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Rangel:

I write to you today about an issue that is of grave and immediate concern to all Americans, especially to those of us from New York. I refer, of course, to the recent airplane attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon, and our nation's response to them.

Recently, there have been calls, both in the media and in Washington, for a war of retribution against the nations of those believed to be responsible for these horrific acts. To wage such a war would be folly.

Such a war would bring only devastation to the innocent foreign civilians who would doubtless suffer from any US-sponsored bombing. America needs to capture those directly responsible for the recent attacks and bring them to justice in a fair, impartial trial. That is the American way. We need to show the world that we will not stand for the killing of foreign citizens any more than we will stand for the killing of our own.

Further, I am disturbed by recent reports of proposed laws that would limit Americans' civil liberties in the name of "anti-terrorism." I am especially troubled by the increased FBI use of wiretaps on telephone and Internet conversations. It is important that, even in this current time of crisis, we do not sacrifice our rights in ways that we will later regret.

I await your response on these important issues.

Very truly yours,

Michael Castleman