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COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND
COOPERATION IN EUROPE (U.S.
HELSINKI COMMISSION)

October 17, 2025

His Excellency Dr William Samoei Ruto
President of the Republic of Kenya and
Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Forces
P.O. Box 40530 – 00100
Nairobi

Dear President Ruto,

I write regarding the sad news about the passing of former Prime Minister Raila Odinga. I send my condolences to you and the Odinga family at this moment of loss.

Raila Odinga's commitment to democracy, public service, and the welfare of the Kenyan people earned him enduring respect not only in Kenya but across Africa and around the world. He played a pivotal role in pushing Kenya toward constitutional reform, greater political inclusion, and a more accountable government. His unwavering resolve in advocating for justice will forever be part of his legacy.

Last year, my constituent and friend Anthony "Amp" Elmore had the opportunity to film PM Odinga and the former President of Nigeria at the FESTAC Festival in Kisumu Kenya, where he was invited as a "Cultural Ambassador." Amp has long envisioned a plan that would make Memphis a hub for cultural exchanges and trade with African countries. Since the 1990s, he has traveled to Kenya and worked to build relationships with Kenyan government officials in effort to open exchanges between Kenya and Memphis. He is also grieving this great loss along with many others in Memphis.

Please convey to the family and close colleagues of Mr. Odinga my sincere condolences and respect.

As always, I remain,

Most sincerely,



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress