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September 20, 2006

The Honorable Condoleezza Rice  
United States Department of State  
2201 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Rice:

The American Nurses Association (ANA) appreciates the diplomatic efforts by the U.S. Department of State on behalf of the five Bulgarian nurses and the Palestinian physician currently imprisoned in Libya on charges of allegedly infecting Libyan children with HIV. Despite these significant efforts, ANA is still gravely concerned about our detained colleagues whom we believe to be innocent and for the infected children and their families. ANA urges you to continue to actively engage in advocating for a just, fair and expeditious trial. We also ask for their release to house arrest for the duration of the legal proceedings and immediate access to lawyers of their choice and the expert witnesses they require.

Again, thank you for your efforts to intervene on behalf of these health professionals. ANA sincerely hopes that all interested parties can reach a speedy and mutually agreeable resolution that will see justice for the imprisoned health professionals, address the pain of the families and mobilize resources for the treatment of the surviving children.

Sincerely,

*Rebecca M Patton, MSN, RN, CNOR*

Rebecca M. Patton, MSN, RN, CNOR  
President

cc: Linda J. Stierle, MSN, RN, CNAAB, BC  
Chief Executive Officer