

For immediate release  
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**Chairman Honda statement on Ethiopian Airlines Flight 409**

It has come to my attention that earlier today, Ethiopian Airlines Flight 409 carrying 90 people crashed minutes after taking off from Beirut-Rafic Hariri International Airport. I extend my condolences to the families of those lost and pledge my support to all recovery efforts. I will be monitoring the situation closely and coordinating with the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board and Lebanese authorities if needed.

As of now, investigators are still determining the cause and total damage of the crash. While terrorism and sabotage have been ruled out, I will work with my colleagues to ensure that a cause is found. I have the utmost confidence in the work of the Ethiopian Airlines investigative team along with the several international authorities involved. My hopes and prayers are with all who are affected by this accident and those who are searching tirelessly for survivors.

Sincerely,

s/ Michael M. Honda

MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Founder, Chair of Congressional Ethiopia and Ethiopian American Caucus