



# James P. McGovern

Second Congressional District of Massachusetts

**For Immediate Release:** April 15, 2014

**Contact:** Michael Mershon (McGovern)

(202) 225-6101

**STATEMENT BY U.S. REPRESENTATIVES JAMES P. McGOVERN (MA), SAM FARR (CA) AND JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY (IL)**

**ON THE MURDER IN HONDURAS OF CARLOS MEJIA ORELLANA WITH RADIO PROGRESO**

“We are shocked and saddened by the news of the murder of Carlos Mejia Orellana, journalist and marketing director of Radio Progreso in Honduras. We extend our deepest condolences to his family members, friends and colleagues. Our thoughts and prayers are with them in this difficult time.

“We are very familiar with the important work of Radio Progreso, a community-based radio station that is a work of the Jesuits of the Central American Province. We note that the Director of Radio Progreso, Father Ismael “Melo” Moreno, testified before the U.S. Congress at the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission and described the constant death threats and attacks perpetrated with impunity against journalists in Honduras, including against Radio Progreso, its employees and its research arm, ERIC. Given the level of threats and violence, including assassination, targeted against journalists, the media and freedom of expression in Honduras, we are dismayed that the Government of Honduras has failed to implement protective measures for the employees of Radio Progreso, as called for by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights when, on four separate occasions over the past five years, it issued precautionary measures on behalf of 16 staff members, including Carlos Mejia Orellana, of Radio Progreso and ERIC. We are further troubled by news reports that the police had announced the murder was carried out by someone close to Sr. Mejia Orellana before any investigation had yet begun. We call upon the Honduran authorities to immediately implement protective measures for Radio Progreso and ERIC employees and to carry out a thorough investigation of the murder of Carlos Mejia Orellana to determine both material and intellectual authors of this heinous act and to bring them to justice in a timely manner.”

**Michael Mershon**

*Senior Advisor / Press Secretary*

U.S. Rep. Jim McGovern (MA-02)

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*Updates from Rep. Jim McGovern*