

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 3, 2015

Dear Secretary Kerry:

We write to express our concern regarding the deteriorating situation of human rights and the rule of law in Honduras, and to urge you to support the establishment of an International Commission against Impunity in Honduras, modeled on the existing International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala.

As you know, for a number of years now Honduras has been plagued by extreme levels of violence—which has driven thousands of Hondurans to flee to the United States—and by rampant corruption. As the Inter-American Human Rights Commission and human rights monitoring groups have noted, most of these crimes go unprosecuted and unpunished. Importantly, the Honduran judiciary lacks much needed independence from other branches of government.

The scale of the problem cannot be understated. There have been serious allegations of corruption involving political parties, business people, and government officials. However, the Honduran government has failed to investigate adequately and lacks the independence necessary to address the severity of the issues. For that reason, hundreds of thousands of Hondurans from every walk of life have protested to demand justice. A central demand of this movement—backed by a broad range of civil society organizations—is for Honduras to establish an independent, UN-sponsored International Commission against Impunity in Honduras (CICIH), modeled on the International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG, in Spanish). The goal of the commission is to bring an international, independent team of prosecutors and investigators to help root out corruption and reduce impunity. We believe this is the only way to ensure justice and the rule of law in Honduras.

This model has been very successful in Guatemala. The International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala has brought to justice corrupt senior government officials and organized crime figures, while at the same time helping Guatemala develop more independent and professional judicial institutions. The CICIG, working in close coordination with the Public Prosecutor's Office, has established a strong track record of investigating and prosecuting corrupt officials in a timely manner. Early accomplishments included forcing the removal of a corrupt Attorney General only days after his appointment in 2010. In April of this year, the CICIG uncovered a corruption network called "La Linea" that stretched to the highest levels of

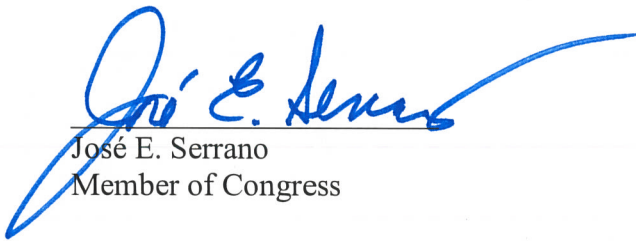
the Guatemalan government. Following these revelations, massive protests took place, leading to the eventual resignation and arrest of then-president Otto Pérez Molina.

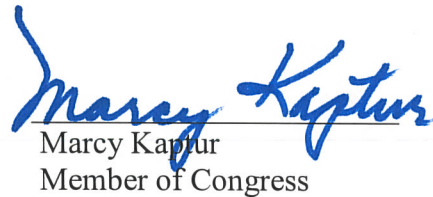
An overwhelming number of Hondurans are supportive of an International Commission against Impunity in Honduras (or CICIH), functioning independently under U.N. auspices. For a relatively modest sum—in comparison to the enormous economic and social cost of ongoing impunity—a CICIH can help strengthen the rule of law in Honduras, and give the Honduran people a measure of hope that the situation will not continue to deteriorate.

We encourage you to support the establishment of a CICIH and invest in its future success, just as the U.S. has done elsewhere. We strongly believe that an independent, internationally-backed commission will help ensure justice and restore Hondurans' faith in their government.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

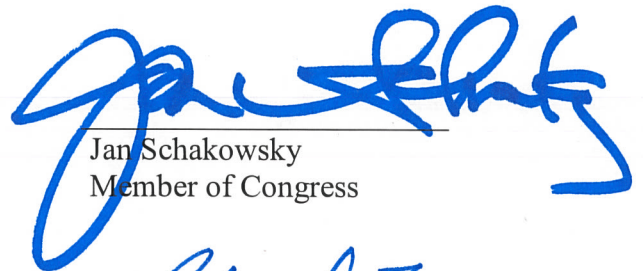

José E. Serrano
Member of Congress

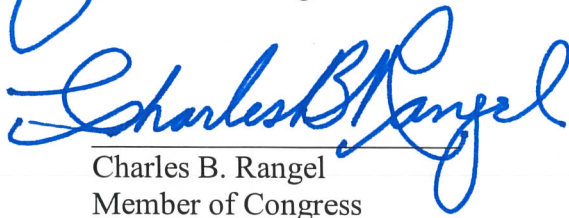

Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress

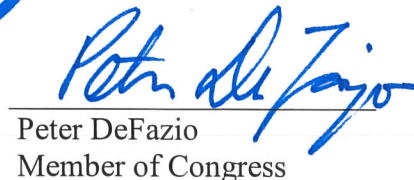

C.A. Dutch Ruppertsberger
Member of Congress

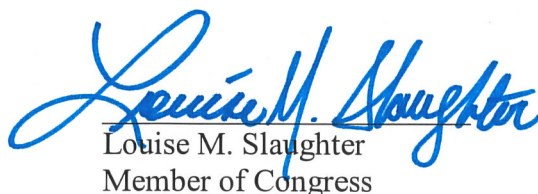

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson
Member of Congress

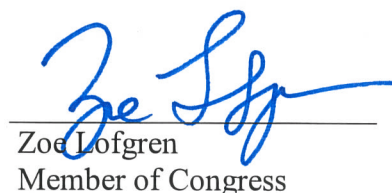

Jackie Speier
Member of Congress

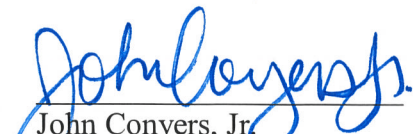

Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Charles B. Rangel
Member of Congress


Peter DeFazio
Member of Congress



Louise M. Slaughter
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress


Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress

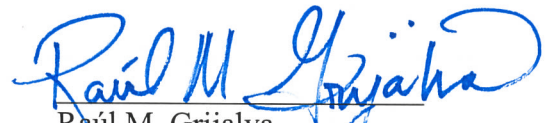

Jim McDermott
Member of Congress


Michael E. Capuano
Member of Congress


Luis Gutiérrez
Member of Congress


Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress


Michael M. Honda
Member of Congress


Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Keith Ellison
Member of Congress

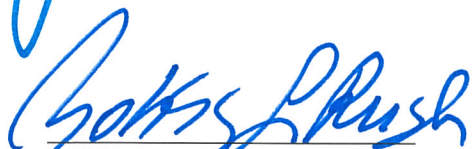

Richard M. Nolan
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress


Loretta Sanchez
Member of Congress


Jared Huffman
Member of Congress


David E. Price
Member of Congress


Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress


Gwen Moore
Member of Congress

Maxine Waters
Member of Congress

Betty McCollum
Member of Congress

Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress

Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress

Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress

Donna F. Edwards
Member of Congress

Kurt Schrader
Member of Congress

Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress

Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress

Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

Mike Quigley
Member of Congress

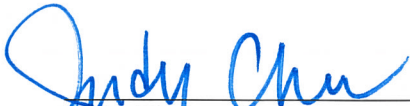
William R. Keating
Member of Congress

Doris O. Matsui
Member of Congress

Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress

John Garamendi
Member of Congress

Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



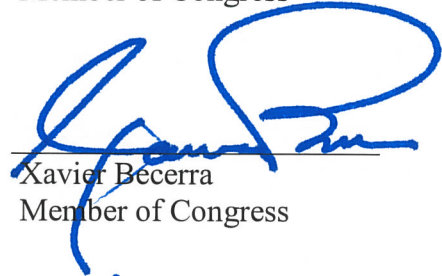
Judy Chu
Member of Congress



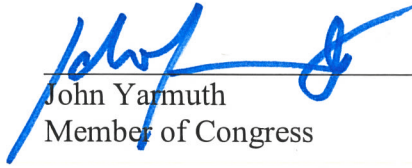
Karen Bass
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



Xavier Becerra
Member of Congress



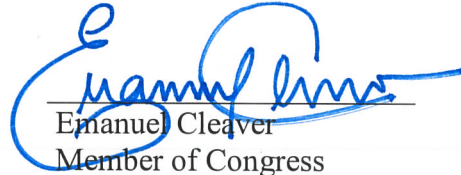
John Yarmuth
Member of Congress



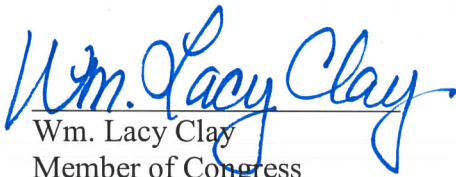
Susan A. Davis
Member of Congress



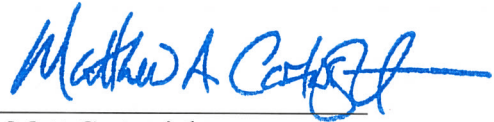
Ron Kind
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver
Member of Congress



Wm. Lacy Clay
Member of Congress



Matt Cartwright
Member of Congress



Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress

Madeline Z. Bordallo

Madeline Z. Bordallo
Member of Congress