

TOM LANTOS, CALIFORNIA  
CHAIRMAN

HOWARD L. BERMAN, CALIFORNIA  
GARY L. ACKERMAN, NEW YORK  
ENI F.H. FALCONI/AEAGA, AMERICAN SAMOA  
DONALD M. PAYNE, NEW JERSEY  
BRAD SHERMAN, CALIFORNIA  
ROBERT WEXLER, FLORIDA  
ELIOT L. ENGEL, NEW YORK  
BILL DELAHUNT, MASSACHUSETTS  
GREGORY W. MEEKS, NEW YORK  
DIANE E. WATSON, CALIFORNIA  
ADAM SMITH, WASHINGTON  
RUSS CARNAHAN, MISSOURI  
JOHN S. TANNER, TENNESSEE  
GENE GREEN, TEXAS  
LYNN C. WOOLSEY, CALIFORNIA  
SHEILA JACKSON LEE, TEXAS  
RUBEN HINOJOSA, TEXAS  
JOSEPH CROWLEY, NEW YORK  
DAVID WU, OREGON  
BRAD MILLER, NORTH CAROLINA  
LINDA T. SANCHEZ, CALIFORNIA  
DAVID SCOTT, GEORGIA  
JIM COSTA, CALIFORNIA  
ALBIO SIRETS, NEW JERSEY  
GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, ARIZONA  
RON KLEIN, FLORIDA

ROBERT R. KING  
STAFF DIRECTOR

PETER M. YEO  
DEPUTY STAFF DIRECTOR

DAVID S. ABRAMOWITZ  
CHIEF COUNSEL

ONE HUNDRED TENTH CONGRESS  
**CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES**  
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

TELEPHONE: (202) 225-5021  
HTTP://WWW.FOREIGNAFFAIRS.HOUSE.GOV/

ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, FLORIDA  
RANKING REPUBLICAN MEMBER

CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH, NEW JERSEY  
DAN BURTON, INDIANA  
ELTON GALLEGLY, CALIFORNIA  
DANA ROHRBACHER, CALIFORNIA  
DONALD A. MANZULLO, ILLINOIS  
EDWARD R. ROYCE, CALIFORNIA  
STEVE CHABOT, OHIO  
THOMAS G. TANCREDO, COLORADO  
RON PAUL, TEXAS  
JEFF FLAKE, ARIZONA  
JO ANN DAVIS, VIRGINIA  
MIKE PENCE, INDIANA  
THADDEUS G. MCCOTTER, MICHIGAN  
JOE WILSON, SOUTH CAROLINA  
JOHN BOOZMAN, ARKANSAS  
J. GRESHAM BARRETT, SOUTH CAROLINA  
CONNIE MACK, FLORIDA  
JEFF FORTENBERRY, NEBRASKA  
MICHAEL T. MCCAUL, TEXAS  
TED POE, TEXAS  
BOB INGLIS, SOUTH CAROLINA  
LUIS G. FORTUÑO, PUERTO RICO

YLEEM D.S. POBLETE  
REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR

MARK G. GAGE  
REPUBLICAN SENIOR POLICY ADVISOR

KIRSTI T. GARLOCK  
REPUBLICAN CHIEF COUNSEL

May 31, 2007

The Honorable José Miguel Insulza  
Secretary-General  
Organization of American States  
17th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Mr. Secretary-General:

I write to you to encourage OAS action to defend the human rights of three Venezuelan political prisoners.

Three officers of the Venezuelan Metropolitan Police, Ivan Simonovis, Lazaro Forero, and Henry Vivas, have been charged by the Venezuelan government with discharging their weapons during a political protest on April 11, 2002, in which 18 people were killed and almost 200 were wounded. The charges against these police officers are grave, and the interests of justice demand a just investigation and trial of those found to be responsible for the deaths of the protestors.

However, far from exercising due process in prosecuting this case, reports indicate that the Venezuelan Government has simply imprisoned the three officers for years without a trial. Some reports say these arrests are politically motivated. Not content to deny basic due process rights to the officers, Venezuela's government has also reportedly harassed their families on numerous occasions. Such treatment violates not only the law of Venezuela and the OAS Charter, but also the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, to which Venezuela was an original signatory in 1948. Article XVIII of the Declaration guarantees the right to a fair trial and Article XXVI guarantees due process.

The Venezuelan Government's failure to provide the three political prisoners with these rights should therefore be a matter of grave concern and priority for every member of the OAS. Accordingly, I ask the OAS to use every venue at its disposal, within applicable rules and guidelines, to ensure a just trial for and treatment of the three officers. A just resolution of this case will uphold the inviolability of human rights throughout the Americas and reaffirm the OAS's dedication to its fundamental principles.

Sincerely,



ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

Ranking Member

House Committee on Foreign Affairs