Congress of the United States Washington, DC 20515

November 13, 2014

His Excellency Horacio Cartes Presidencia de la República Palacio de Gobierno El Paraguayo Independiente e/Ayolas y O'leary, Asunción Paraguay

Dear Mr. President:

As you know, the United States values our strong relationship with Paraguay. Together, we are committed to helping advance our shared interests, including improving institutional accountability, strengthening the rule of law, reducing poverty and expanding economic opportunities. For this reason, we urge you to openly, fairly and justly address the forced eviction in Marina Kue on June 15, 2012.

On that day, 11 farmers and 6 police lost their lives and many were injured during the forced eviction of some 60 landless farmers by over 300 police in riot gear from government land that -- while claimed by a private company -- is recognized by institutions in your government as belonging to the Paraguayan State and intended for land reform.

As you know, accountability of public institutions is essential for societies to thrive. We therefore urge you to pursue a clear and fair resolution to this land dispute case, including a full investigation to ensure those responsible for the murders and reported human rights abuses on June 15, 2012 are brought to justice.

We also urge you to continue to move forward with implementation of agrarian reform policies consistent with Paraguay's existing laws; this would help enable farmers in Curuguaty to acquire rights over the Marina Kue property in order to feed their families and ensure the livelihood of their community.

We believe that justice in the Marina Kue case will help inspire new confidence in the accountability of public institutions.

We appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

SAM FARR

Member of Congress

JAMES P. MCGOVERN

Member of Congress

EARL BLUMENAUER
Member of Congress

HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON JR. Member of Congress

CHARLES B. RANGEL
Member of Congress

BARBARA LEE

Member of Congress

RAUL M. GRIJALVA Member of Congress

JIM MCDERMOTT

Member of Congress

MICHAEL M. HONDA Member of Congress

JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY Member of Congress

Beto O'Rourhe.

BETO O'ROURKE Member of Congress