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’ROURKE  
Member of Congress