

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 31, 2015

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

Dear President Cartes,

We are writing to inquire about your government's efforts to resolve the 2012 Marina Kue land conflict. Since we last wrote to you about this issue in November 2014, we have continued to be concerned by the apparent lack of progress toward a clear and fair resolution of this case, despite continued interest on the part of your citizens, faith leaders, human rights organizations, and other public interest organizations.

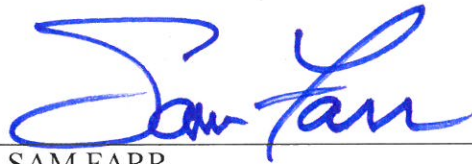
As you are well aware, on June 15, 2012, 11 farmers and six police officers were killed and more were injured when over 300 heavily armed police forcibly evicted 60 farmers from land in Marina Kue. Over three years have passed since the incident at Marina Kue occurred, but a complete and impartial investigation has not yet taken place. International human rights organizations have pointed out that the investigations carried out to date have skewed heavily in favor of the police: while 13 farmers are currently in jail or under house arrest awaiting trial on a variety of charges ranging from attempted murder to trespassing, no police officers have been charged in the deaths of the 11 farmers who were killed.

It is crucial to bring this case to a fair and transparent resolution in order to bring justice to the affected families and communities, as well as to restore confidence in the accountability of public institutions. Yet from what we hear since we wrote to you in November 2014, little progress has been made. In fact, just last month, the affected families reported that they had exhausted all avenues of dialogue with government officials without achieving any concrete results.

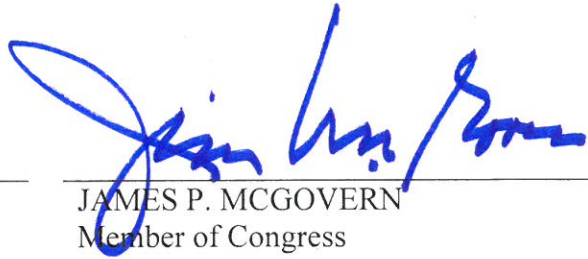
Given the above, we respectfully urge your government to take the necessary steps to carry out a full and impartial investigation of the June 15, 2012 incident at Marina Kue and to bring to justice all those responsible for the violence that occurred. In addition, we urge your government to take steps to implement inclusive land reform in order to address the underlying issues that led to the Marina Kue incident.

We look forward to hearing from you regarding this issue and to working with you to find new opportunities for the United States to collaborate with Paraguay on our many shared interests.

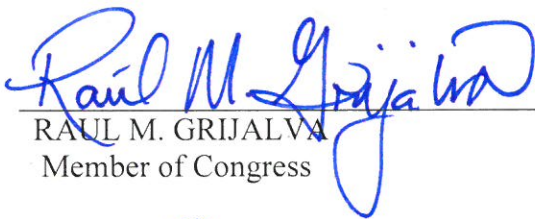
Sincerely,



SAM FARR
Member of Congress



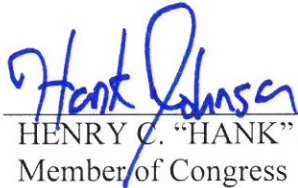
JAMES P. MCGOVERN
Member of Congress



RAUL M. GRIJALVA
Member of Congress



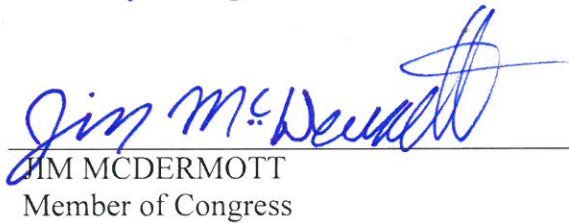
MICHAEL M. HONDA
Member of Congress



HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON
Member of Congress



BARBARA LEE
Member of Congress



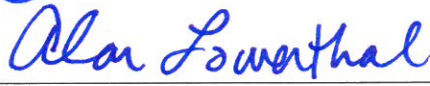
JIM MCDERMOTT
Member of Congress



JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY
Member of Congress



EARL BLUMENAUER
Member of Congress



ALAN LOWENTHAL
Member of Congress