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June 22, 2011

The Honorable Hillary Clinton
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Madam Secretary:

I am writing to express my concern regarding Hugo Chavez's ongoing manipulation of the Venezuelan judicial system in order to advance his autocratic aims and the subsequent lack of medical attention certain individuals are receiving while being wrongfully imprisoned as political prisoners of the Chavez regime.

According to information my office has received, the individuals listed below continue to be denied medical attention despite the serious nature of their health conditions. Many of those listed have been serving unjust sentences for several years now and in some cases require immediate surgery or cancer treatment.

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| 1. <i>Mr. Arube Perez</i> | 5. <i>Mr. Henry Vivas</i> |
| 2. <i>Mr. Erasmus Bolivar</i> | 6. <i>Mr. Jose Sanchez Mazuco</i> |
| 3. <i>Mr. Lazaro Forero</i> | 7. <i>Ms. Maria Afiuni</i> |
| 4. <i>Mr. Ivan Simonovis</i> | 8. <i>Mr. Alejandro Pena Esclusa</i> |

The medical conditions several of these political prisoners are facing demands attention. I urge the State Department, within all applicable rules and guidelines, to take the appropriate measures to bring attention to these cases and support the right of these individuals to receive medical treatment.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN
Chairman