

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 5, 2014

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We, the undersigned Members of Congress, are gravely concerned with the ongoing crisis and violence in Venezuela and would like to respectfully request that the U.S. government take immediate and proper measures to stand in solidarity with the people of Venezuela.

On February 12, 2014, also known as Venezuela's National Youth Day, students began protesting across several cities in large part due to the measures enacted under Venezuelan leader Nicolas Maduro that infringe upon the rights of the people of Venezuela and the poor economic situation. In response, the Maduro regime has undermined democratic principles, committed human rights violations and has expelled our consular affairs officials who were stationed at our embassy in Venezuela. On February 21, 2014, the Secretary of State issued a statement that said: "the Venezuelan government has confronted peaceful protestors with force and in some cases with armed vigilantes claiming to support the government. It has imprisoned students and a key opposition figure."

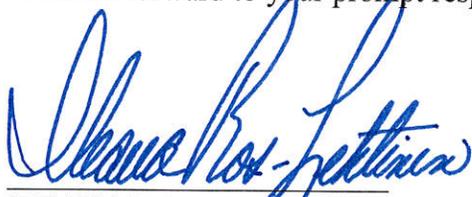
In light of these actions and pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, we respectfully request that your Administration respond in kind by immediately:

- Denying visas to enter the U.S. to members of the Government of Venezuela;
- Blocking property and freezing assets; and
- Prohibiting financial transactions to these human rights abusers.

We appreciate your attention to this matter and we hope that your Administration shares our concerns and will take these immediate steps to address this important issue.

We look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,



ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN
Member of Congress



MARIO DIAZ-BALART
Member of Congress



ALBIO SIRES
Member of Congress



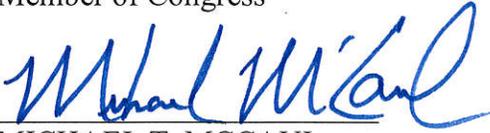
MATT SALMON
Member of Congress



RON DESANTIS
Member of Congress



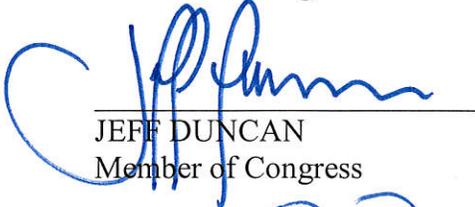
JOE GARCIA
Member of Congress



MICHAEL T. MCCAUL
Member of Congress



MICHAEL GRIMM
Member of Congress



JEFF DUNCAN
Member of Congress



GUS BILIRAKIS
Member of Congress



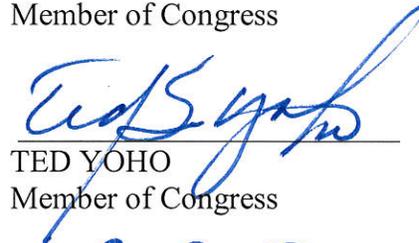
SEAN P. DUFFY
Member of Congress



TOM COTTON
Member of Congress



STEVE STOCKMAN
Member of Congress



TED YOHO
Member of Congress



DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ
Member of Congress



TED DEUTCH
Member of Congress



LOIS FRANKEL
Member of Congress