



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Legislative Affairs

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Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

March 9, 2015

The Honorable Robert W. Goodlatte  
Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ileana Ros-Lehtinen  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman and Congresswoman Ros-Lehtinen:

This responds to your letter to Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) Director Charles E. Samuels, Jr., dated February 12, 2015, regarding reports that the U.S. Government assisted Mr. Gerardo Hernandez, who at the time was an inmate in the custody of the BOP, to facilitate the artificial insemination of his wife.

The Department of State facilitated this request as a humanitarian accommodation after consultation with the Department of Justice. The BOP then carried out the request by permitting a doctor from Panama to collect a sample from Mr. Hernandez and transport it out of the institution. The BOP had no further involvement in this matter and it did not incur any costs in connection with the procedure. We are not aware of any previous instances where the BOP facilitated a similar request. Finally, based on our review, there are no specific legal or regulatory provisions addressing this issue.

We hope this information is helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact this office if we may provide additional assistance regarding this or any other matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Peter J. Kadzik".

Peter J. Kadzik  
Assistant Attorney General

cc: The Honorable John Conyers, Jr.  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary