

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 13, 2015

Mr. Jose Miguel Insulza
Secretary General
Organization of American States
17th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Secretary General Insulza:

We are writing to condemn the recent statements by Venezuela's Ambassador to the Organization of American States (OAS), Roy Chaderton, and request for the OAS to immediately revoke his credentials.

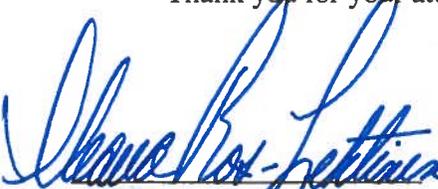
On Monday, March 9, 2015, while speaking on Venezuelan State television, the Venezuelan Ambassador to the OAS, Roy Chaderton, made the following grotesque and reprehensible remark: "There comes a time when an opposition supporter's head can't be differentiated from a government supporter's head except for its contents...The sound produced [by a bullet] in an opposition supporter head is like a click because the skull is empty." He has since tried to backtrack and claim that this comment was just a case of "dark humor," but surely we must all agree that a "joke" that makes light of the Maduro regime's use of deadly force against opposition protesters is not appropriate for a high-level diplomat and representative of his country to an organization that is supported by taxpayers, such as the OAS.

Article 1 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter proclaims that "the people of the Americans have a right to democracy and their governments have an obligation to promote and defend it. Democracy is essential for the social, political, and economic development of the peoples of the Americas." Article 2 dictates that "the effective exercise of representative democracy is the basis for the rule of law and of the constitutional regimes of the member states" of the OAS, and Article 3 defines the essential elements of a representative democracy to include, among other things, "respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms."

In light of this, and also as Members of Congress who represent American taxpayers who pay significant sums yearly to the budget of the OAS, we believe that Ambassador Chaderton's comments fail to live up to the OAS' Inter-American Democratic Charter. Therefore, we strongly urge you to revoke his credentials and deny him a seat at the OAS to ensure he is held accountable for his reprehensible and vile conduct.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

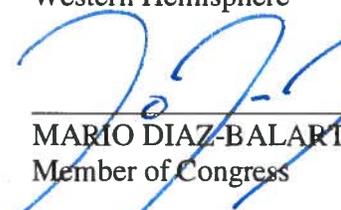
Sincerely,

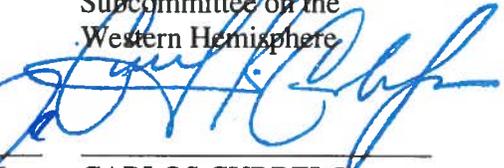

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Member of Congress


JEFF DUNCAN
Chairman
Subcommittee on the
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