

n/a
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RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.5(B), 1.5(D)

PTO9788

PAGE 01 PANAMA 03874 101611Z
ACTION WHA-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	ACQ-00	COME-00	INL-00	DOFE-00	SRPF-00
	DS-00	EB-00	RUR-00	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	VC-00	TEDE-00
	INR-00	IO-00	VCE-00	AC-01	NSAE-00	ACE-00	SSO-00
	SS-00	TRSE-00	DSCC-00	DRL-02	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/003W

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O 101604Z OCT 00
 FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1834
 INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA IMMEDIATE
 AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
 CIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
 DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
 NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE
 SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

PANAMA 003874

DEPT FOR WHA
 DEPT ALSO FOR INL ERINDLER
 TREASURY FOR DEPSEC AND FINCEN
 PARIS FOR OECD MISSION

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/10/2010
 TAGS: PREL, PHUM, PINR, EFIN, ECON, PE, PM
 SUBJECT: PANAMANIAN PRESIDENT ON MONTESINOS AND FATF
 DECISION

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 REF: A. PANAMA 3867
 B. STATE 194218

1. (U) CLASSIFIED BY P/E COUNS BIGLER, REASONS 1.5 (B AND D).



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AMBASSADOR ON THESE TOPICS (REF A).

MONTESINOS ASYLUM: NO DECISION SOON, LOCAL OPPOSITION RISING

B1

4. (U) MEANWHILE, DOMESTIC OPPOSITION TO OPPOSING ASYLUM FOR MONTESINOS WAS STRENGTHENED BY THE VISIT TO PANAMA OF "HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH" (HRW) ACTIVISTS WHO DEMANDED THAT ASYLUM BE

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DENIED TO MONTESINOS BECAUSE HE IS A "TORTURER." HRW'S REED, BRODY AND SEBASTIAN BRETT PRESENTED THE PANAMANIAN MFA ON OCTOBER 9 WITH INFORMATION WHICH THEY SAID PROVED MONTESINOS WAS INVOLVED IN HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN PERU. IN THE MEETING, THE MFA REPRESENTATIVES EMPHASIZED THAT PANAMA WAS CONSIDERING THE ASYLUM REQUEST BECAUSE OF APPEALS FROM THE OAS SECGEN AND FROM PRESIDENTS OF OAS MEMBER STATES. THERE WERE ADDITIONAL LOCAL EDITORIALS AGAINST ASYLUM FOLLOWING THE HRW VISIT.

5. (C) THIS MORNING, THE HRW ACTIVISTS MET WITH EMBASSY OFFICIALS TO CLARIFY THE USG'S POSITION WITH REGARD TO THE ASYLUM REQUEST. CHARGE AND POL/ECON COUNS STATED THAT THE USG POSITION WAS TO SUPPORT PANAMA'S "ACCEPTANCE" OF MONTESINOS BUT WITH A STATUS THAT WOULD NOT CONFER HIM IMMUNITY FROM LATER JUDICIAL ACTION, IF REQUESTED. EMBOFFS ALSO EMPHASIZED CONTINUING USG CONCERN ABOUT THE CURRENT SITUATION IN PERU.

6. (U) AT THE SAME TIME, POLITICAL ACTIVIST (AND FORMER MOSCOSO ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL) MIGUEL ANTONIO BERNAL HAS DEMANDED THAT THE PUBLIC MINISTRY ARREST MONTESINOS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN PERU. BERNAL TOLD THE MEDIA THAT IF MOSCOSO GRANTS MONTESINOS ASYLUM, SHE WOULD OPEN HERSELF UP TO CHARGES OF BEING AN ACCOMPLICE TO MONTESINOS' ALLEGED ABUSES, AND TO VIOLATING PANAMA'S INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATION TO

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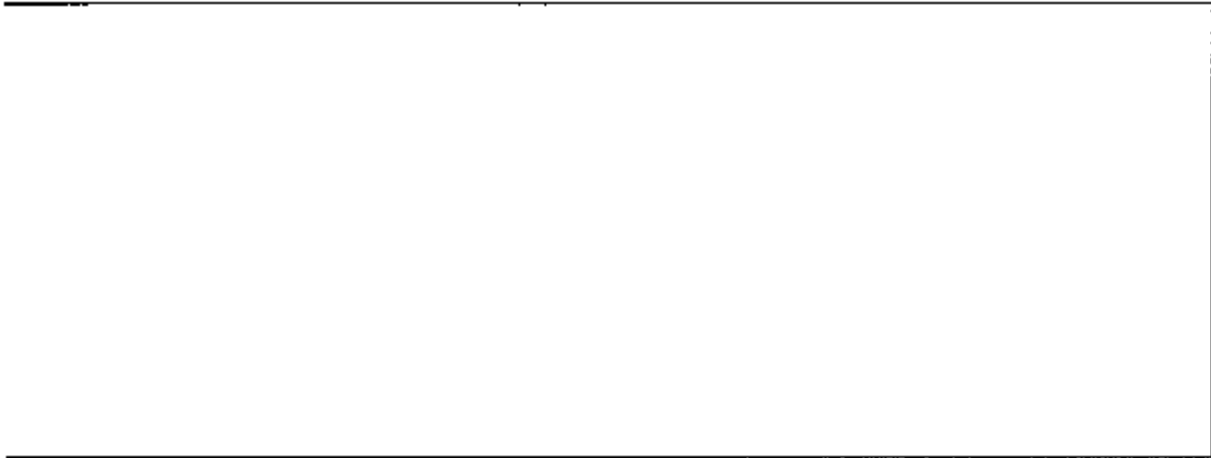
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UPHOLD THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION AGAINST TORTURE.

FATF: USG OFFER OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACCEPTED



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BECKER

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