

Congressional Committee

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U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

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April 10, 1992

His Excellency Joao Clemente Baena Soares
Secretary General
Organization of American States
Washington, D.C. 20006

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
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 Date: 4/30/97
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Dear Mr. Secretary General:

We write to urge the Organization of American States to respond forcefully to the current suspension of the constitutional government in Peru. We are deeply concerned about President Fujimori's decision to suspend the democratically elected Parliament and to deny basic civil and political rights. We believe that the Organization of American States should take strong actions to press for the restoration of the democratically elected Parliament, an independent press, and provisions that protect basic human rights.

We strongly condemn the decision to place under detention and house arrest the Honorable Felipe Osterling, President of Senate, and the Honorable Roberto Ramirez del Villa, President of the Chamber of Deputies, as well as other Members of Parliament and representatives of political parties. In addition, we protest the actions taken by military personnel and police preventing Members of Parliament from meeting and conducting legislative business. These actions clearly violate the basic right to freedom of conscience, expression, and assembly.

We appreciate and support the Permanent Council's resolution adopted on April 6, 1992, and the upcoming meeting of Foreign Ministers. We urge the Foreign Ministers to adopt further measures that will result in bringing about the restoration of democratic freedoms and basic human rights. A strong response from the Organization of American States to the current crisis in Peru will further strengthen the growing authority of the Inter-American system.

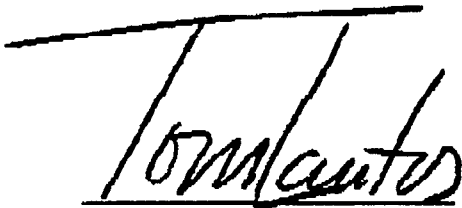
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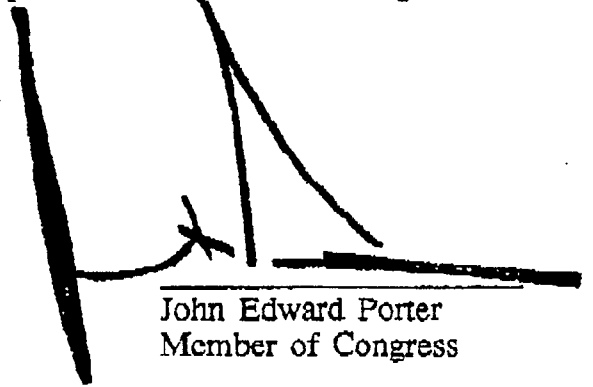
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We support your efforts to protect democratic institutions and human rights in this hemisphere. We look forward to a response and send our best regards.

Cordially,



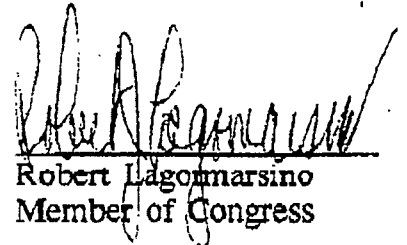
Tom Lantos
Member of Congress



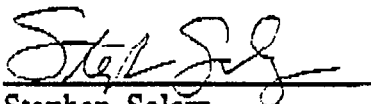
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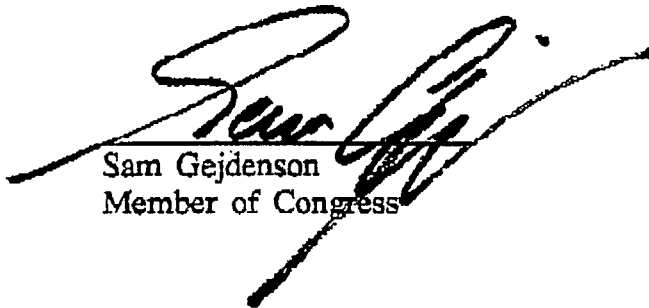
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