

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

January 18, 2013

The President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to express our grave concerns about the case of Dr. Manuel A. Placer, a United States citizen who resides in Puerto Rico. It is our understanding that, upon arriving at the airport in Mexico City in June 2012, Dr. Placer was arrested and imprisoned by Mexican authorities. He was charged under Mexican law with theft, a crime Dr. Placer was alleged to have committed during a prior visit to Mexico in January 2011.

At present, Dr. Placer remains detained in a Guadalajara, Jalisco prison. We are informed that he has had only one judicial hearing during the past seven months, and that the presiding judge declined to admit into evidence documentation that Dr. Placer was not in Mexico at the time of the alleged crime.

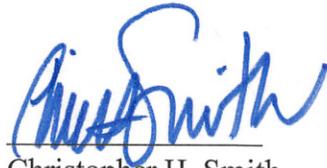
It would appear that Dr. Placer's due process rights are being violated by this refusal to consider potentially exculpatory evidence. He arguably has also been denied a fair hearing or trial within a reasonable period of time, which Mexico is obligated to provide as a party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).

We hope that Dr. Placer's rights will be vindicated at a federal court hearing that is scheduled for January 25, 2013. We strongly urge the U.S. government, through the Department of State, to be proactive in ensuring that Dr. Placer's due process and human rights are protected, consistent with the ICCPR and all other relevant international and domestic legal obligations. We further request that the U.S. government inform the appropriate officials in the Mexican government of our concerns with respect to Dr. Placer's case.

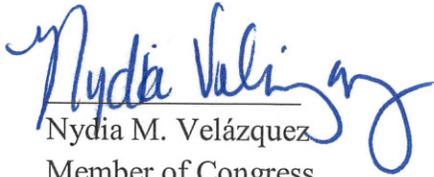
Sincerely,



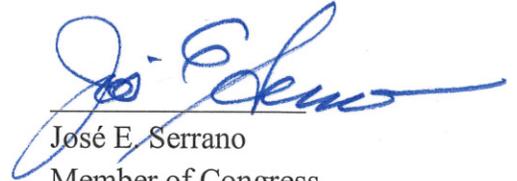
Pedro R. Pierluisi  
Member of Congress



Christopher H. Smith  
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress



José E. Serrano  
Member of Congress

cc: The Hon. Hillary Rodham Clinton, Secretary, U.S. Department of State  
The Hon. Roberta Jacobsen, Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of Western Hemisphere  
Affairs, U.S. Department of State  
The Hon. Earl Anthony "Tony" Wayne, U.S. Ambassador to Mexico