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September 24, 2014

The Honorable John Kerry  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street, NW, Room 7226  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Kerry:

I join Rep. Maxine Waters and others in expressing grave concern about the developing situation in Haiti, especially regarding the safety of former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

It has come to my attention that on Friday, September 12, 2014 at approximately 1 a.m., President Aristide's security detail was removed, on government orders, from his home in Tabarre. In the volatile political situation in Haiti, this is clearly a threat to his security and the safety of his wife and daughter, both of whom live with him in the house.

I have also been informed that President Aristide, the first democratically elected president of Haiti, has been threatened with house arrest. These extra-judicial measures are disturbing. They have led to potential confrontation between police and his supporters, who have staged vigils in front of his house. This is the last thing we need in a country that is desperate for development, education and reconciliation.

It is my understanding that President Aristide has been focused, since his return to Haiti, on the development of the University of the Aristide Foundation (UNIFA), which now has a medical, nursing, law and a physical therapy school. I would hope that this positive work will be able to continue and that you can encourage a less confrontational approach to President Aristide.

Sincerely,



Luis V. Gutiérrez  
Member of Congress