

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 29, 2005

The Honorable Condoleezza Rice
Secretary
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Rice:

As you continue to fulfill your responsibilities serving our great nation as the Secretary of State, we would like to remind you of an urgent matter with regard to extradition between our country and Mexico.

As you are aware, the Mexican government refuses to extradite Mexican nationals who have committed crimes in the United States unless American prosecutors agree not to pursue the death penalty or even a life sentence. Consequently, heinous crimes are committed in this country by perpetrators who become fugitives and escape justice by seeking safe haven in Mexico.

For example, on April 29, 2002, a Los Angeles County Deputy Sheriff, David March, was murdered, execution-style, during a routine traffic stop. The suspect, Armando Garcia, fled to Mexico and because he is a Mexican national, the Mexican government is likely to refuse extradition unless the prosecutors agree not to pursue the death penalty or even life in prison. This dilemma forces prosecutors either to seek lesser charges, to seek justice under Article IV prosecution – where there would be no guarantee of aggressive adjudication – or not seek extradition at all. Tragically, none of these options assures the safety of our communities or the most equitable application of justice.

The death of David March is tragic and only one example of hundreds of similar crimes committed within Southern California alone. Several other states have dealt with this same issue and the killers who have committed these crimes throughout the United States cannot be extradited without a reduction in charges and a guarantee of parole eligibility. Such compromises negate our laws and leave victims and their families without substantial justice.

We respectfully call upon you to do everything within the power of your office to ensure that our nation's sovereignty is protected and we urge you to take your earliest opportunity to raise this issue with your counterparts in the Mexican government.

Sincerely,

Buck McLean

Carl Delfino

Byron Hill

Mary Bono

John T. Doherty

Darin Nones

Paul Dering

Michael E. Jurey

Mike Calver

George Johnson

Jonny Lewis

Dann Robinson

Crista Cat

Paul H. ...

Sam Tan

Howard L. Berman

Elton Dallegly

Ed Royce

Duncan Hunter

Zoe Lujan

Shoo

Randy "Duke" Cunningham

Bill Thomas

Frank J. Sanchez

Hilda L. Salis

Lain Capps

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3. Rep. Gary G. Miller
4. Rep. Mary Bono
5. Rep. John T. Doolittle
6. Rep. Devin Nunes
7. Rep. David Dreier
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9. Rep. Ken Calvert
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11. Rep. Jerry Lewis
12. Rep. Dana Rohrabacher
13. Rep. Christopher Cox
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26. Rep. Lois Capps