

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 14, 2024

Ms. Roberta Clarke
President
Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
1889 F Street, N.W. (5th Floor)
Washington, D.C. 20006

Mr. Pedro José Vaca Villarreal
Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression
Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
1889 F Street, N.W. (5th floor),
Washington, D.C. 20006, USA

Dear Commissioner Clarke and Special Rapporteur Vaca:

We write to you in our capacity as members of the U.S. House of Representatives regarding the ongoing situation in Brazil and the actions taken by the Brazilian supreme court against the social media platform X, actions affecting millions of Brazilians as well as U.S. citizens who live or do business in Brazil and an American company.

In a previous letter dated May 3, 2024, Rep. Smith requested from the Commission information in its power concerning the human rights being reported to the members of the Subcommittee then. The letter additionally requested information on the steps or measures taken by the Commission or the Special Rapporteur to address the ongoing situation. We regret that this letter went unanswered.

Since then, the situation in Brazil has gotten considerably worse, as evidenced first and foremost by the illegitimate blockade of the X platform in the country, with Mr. de Moraes's declaring his intent to curtail political speech protected under international human rights law. While X services are now restored, this has only happened after the elections are over, and with X having been strongarmed into compliance. This is all unacceptable.

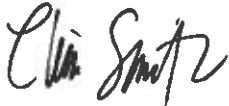
We request, once again, that the Commission and its Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression inform the undersigned members of the House of what steps have been taken to monitor and address the situation to help end this egregious conduct.

We support the specific mandate of the Commission to promote and protect the free enjoyment of human rights and freedoms and the tools at the organization's disposal to exercise its functions. We are equally aware of the fact that the United States yearly provides supplemental

funds to the Inter-American Commission in support of its mandate, and specifically to fund the Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression and its ability to issue statement and reports on the state of freedom of expression in the region, and other measures to make effective the exercise of the right to freedom of thought and expression, especially in countries where governments actively seek to undermine it. Considering this, we are deeply concerned about the use made of such supplemental funds, in light of the apparent lack of action taken by your organization to address these urgent matters that have been widely and rightly understood as a flagrant violation of rights.

As members of the House of Representatives, it is our duty to exercise oversight over the expenditure of taxpayer-assessed funds, including those that are disbursed to the Commission and the Office of the Special Rapporteur. We remain attentive to your answers, as they will inform our future actions and approach to budgetary requests for this purpose.

Sincerely,



CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH
Member of Congress



DARRELL ISSA
Member of Congress



MARÍA ELVIRA SALAZAR
Member of Congress



CARLOS A. GIMENEZ
Member of Congress