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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

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SENIOR MEMBER, HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
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[www.chrissmith.house.gov](http://www.chrissmith.house.gov)

May 3, 2024

Ms. Roberta Clarke  
President  
Inter-American Commission on Human Rights  
1889 F Street, N.W. (5<sup>th</sup> floor),  
Washington, D.C. 20006, USA

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

RE: Credible allegations of human rights violations in Brazil

Dear Commissioner Clarke and Special Rapporteur Vaca,

I write to you as chairman of the Subcommittee on Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations of the United States House of Representatives regarding the upcoming hearing entitled “Brazil: A Crisis of Democracy, Freedom & Rule of Law?” which will be held at 10:00 AM on Tuesday, May 7, in the Rayburn House Office Building.

The Subcommittee has been informed of serious allegations of human rights violations committed by Brazilian officials on a large scale. Most notably, credible allegations have been made of mass violations of freedom of expression, including censorship imposed through abuses of judicial authority and the muzzling of opposition media. The Subcommittee aims to receive information on these allegations, leading to a discussion on how the U.S. Congress can best address developments in Brazil.

In view of the mandate of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), and particularly of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression, to promote respect for human rights and freedom of expression, including to monitor and collect relevant reports, information on developments in Brazil, I respectfully request that you share any information you have concerning these human rights violations. Additionally, please inform the Subcommittee of what steps or measures the office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression and the Interamerican Commission on Human Rights have taken to address the ongoing situation in Brazil and what suggestions—if any—it can make to this body to attend to it.

It would be helpful to receive any relevant materials you have by Monday, May 6, so that it can be incorporated into the discussion at the hearing. Please be advised, however, that we will continue our review and work on the issue and invite you to provide this critical information on an ongoing basis. Please submit the requested information to the Subcommittee as a hard copy to the return address listed above or through e-mail to my staff at [mark.milosch@mail.house.gov](mailto:mark.milosch@mail.house.gov). Materials we receive after the hearing will also be useful, as congressional responsibility in this situation will remain ongoing.

Sincerely,



CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH  
Member of Congress