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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

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CO-CHAIRMAN, TOM LANTOS HUMAN RIGHTS
COMMISSION

SENIOR MEMBER, HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE

www.chrissmith.house.gov

November 10, 2025

The Honorable Marco Rubio
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
Washington, DC

The Honorable Pete Hegseth
Secretary of War
U.S. Department of War
Washington, DC

Dear Secretary Rubio and Secretary Hegseth:

I write to raise an urgent issue about the forthcoming presidential election in Honduras, scheduled for November 30, 2025. Concerns are growing that the ruling Liberty and Refoundation party (LIBRE) will attempt to manipulate the election results, whether by fraud or other state machinery interference, as its candidate, Rixi Moncada, is significantly behind in independent polls.

Such concerns are reasonable, as you, Secretary Rubio, and others in the administration have noted that the ruling party has a notably poor record in respect of democracy and the rule of law. Election fraud or manipulation would be disastrous for the people of Honduras as well as for American interests. The overthrow of a democratic election could lead to the deepening of the LIBRE government's alignment with the Maduro dictatorship in Venezuela as well as Cuba and China. It could also mean diminished cooperation from Honduras in President Trump's successful effort to protect the American people from the flow of drugs and the influence of narco-terrorist regimes and organizations.

I believe that it is essential that the United States communicate that any effort to subvert the will of the Honduran people will carry serious consequences for bilateral relations and regional stability. This can help deter irregularities and reassure Honduran citizens of the U.S. support for democratic integrity.

Therefore, I respectfully request that the Administration take concrete actions to help safeguard electoral integrity in Honduras. One particular action that would underscore the United States' commitment to the transparency of the elections, would be the deployment of an official U.S. delegation to observe the election.

In addition, I urge that the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of War engage constructively with the Honduran Armed Forces, emphasizing their responsibility to uphold the democratic process. It is notable that the Honduran military has a constitutional mandate to secure a peaceful transfer of power and to collaborate with civil authorities in the development of the election process.

Other actions that merit consideration include the issuance of unequivocal public statements in support of free and fair elections; mobilization of diplomatic resources; strengthening independent election observation; and holding accountable any attempts to undermine the democratic process.

I deeply appreciate your leadership, as well as that of President Trump, in safeguarding American interests in the Western Hemisphere, while promoting democracy, human rights, and stability.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Smith", written in a cursive style.

CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH
Member of Congress