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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN
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January 4, 2006

Honorable Condoleezza Rice
Secretary
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Rice:

I am contacting you regarding Father Gerard Jean-Juste in Haiti. Information provided to me by constituents states that: Father Jean-Juste was arrested on July 21, 2005; is currently imprisoned in Haiti; was recently diagnosed with Leukemia; and is in dire need of medical assistance. Father Jean-Juste needs to be released in order to seek proper medical attention.

On humanitarian grounds, I ask that you consider taking such steps as are deemed necessary to secure Father Jean-Juste's release and transport to the United States to receive possibly life-saving medical treatment. Father Jean-Juste has been diagnosed with chronic lymphocytic leukemia. This type of cancer may develop into a more aggressive strain that could potentially spread quickly throughout his system if left untreated. Medical care has already been pledged by the Jay Weiss Center in Miami, Florida and thus would come at no cost to the taxpayer.

As you evaluate this unique case, I would request that you give due consideration to the humanitarian merit of the situation surrounding Father Jean-Juste and provide much-needed assistance in accordance with all applicable rules and regulations. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Member of Congress