

THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
TO THE  
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

WASHINGTON, D.C.

July 31, 2017

Mr. Paulo Abrão  
Executive Secretary  
Inter-American Commission on Human Rights  
Organization of American States  
Washington, D.C. 20006

**Re: Pedro Rosselló et al.**  
**Case No. 13.326**  
**Response to Petitioners' Offer for Friendly Settlement Discussions**

Dear Mr. Abrão:

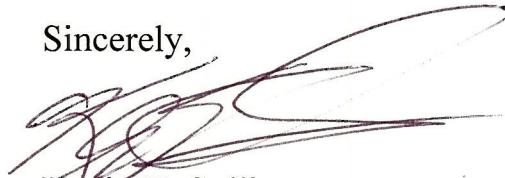
The United States acknowledges Report No. 17/17 of January 27, 2017, in which the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ("Commission") declared certain claims in the above-referenced case admissible and others inadmissible. While we maintain that the remaining claims in this case are also inadmissible under the Rules of Procedure, including for the reasons explained in our June 25, 2010 submission, we applaud the brevity of the admissibility decision and hope that the Commission continues to issue streamlined decisions, where appropriate, so that it may speed up the processing of its substantial backlog.

We also acknowledge your correspondence dated July 6, 2017, in which you forward a letter from Petitioners dated May 30, 2017. In that letter, Petitioners state that they intend to file a merits brief and ask for an extension until October 3, 2017. Petitioners also state that they are prepared to attempt to reach a friendly settlement with the United States in this case. While we likewise acknowledge the

Puerto Rico Senate's April 4, 2017 resolution calling on the United States to desist from defending against Petitioners' claims of human rights violations and enter into a friendly settlement with Petitioners, we are not in a position to discuss friendly settlement at this time. We continue to doubt that the Commission's individual petition process is an appropriate or effective avenue for the U.S. citizen residents of Puerto Rico to assert claims about representation in the U.S. Congress.

Please accept renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "K. Sullivan", with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Kevin K. Sullivan  
Interim Permanent Representative