



THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
TO THE
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
WASHINGTON, D.C.

August 30, 2016

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

**Re: Marcelino Herrera Vega, Petition No. P-163-06
U.S. Acknowledgement of Effective Abeyance of Proceedings**

Dear Mr. Abrão:


The above-referenced matter appears as active in the Individual Petition System Portal (“Portal”) of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (“Commission”). Through email exchanges with your staff in recent weeks, we have confirmed that the Commission still considers this matter to be active, though the United States has no record of ever having received the Petition or a request for a U.S. response.

We understand from your staff, and can see in the Portal, that your office sent an inquiry to Marcelino Herrera Vega, María del Refugio Vega Landeros, and José Guadalupe Herrera (“Petitioners”) on April 11, 2016 (via a letter dated March 31, 2016), asking whether the grounds for the Petition subsist and whether they are still interested in pursuing this matter. The letter informs the Petitioners that absent a response within one month of April 11, the Commission may decide to archive the Petition pursuant to Article 42 of the Rules of Procedure (“Rules”). According to an email exchange with your staff on July 11, 2016, the Petitioners had not yet responded to your office’s letter, and we see no response in the Portal.

Given the lack of information from the Petitioners, the United States will consider this matter effectively in abeyance unless and until the Commission informs us otherwise. We commend the Commission's ongoing efforts to examine this matter and other long-dormant matters and cases with a view toward archiving them pursuant to Article 42 of the Rules, so that it may reduce its backlog and focus its limited resources on the many other pressing issues that require its attention. In this regard, we are encouraged by the recent closing of several dormant "request for information" proceedings under Article 25 of the Rules, and hope such efforts continue apace.

Please accept renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

Sincerely,



Kevin K. Sullivan
Interim Permanent Representative