

News from

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ENGEL CONDEMNS REMOVAL OF HONDURAN PRESIDENT ZELAYA; URGES HIS REINSTATEMENT

Expresses Concerns with Attempts to Change Constitution in Latin America

Washington, D.C. – Congressman Eliot Engel, Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere, today strongly condemned the removal of President Manuel Zelaya of Honduras and released the following statement:

"I strongly condemn the removal of President Zelaya and believe that he should be reinstated without delay. Manuel Zelaya is the duly-elected President of Honduras, and all parties in Honduras must rededicate themselves to the rule of law by restoring democracy and coming into compliance with the Inter-American Democratic Charter and the Constitution of Honduras.

I had been concerned with how President Zelaya was attempting to change the Constitution so that he could remain in power after his official term ends. In fact, there is a disturbing trend of elected leaders in Latin America trying to alter constitutions to further their own political agendas. As much as I disagree with these efforts, deposing President Zelaya or anyone else is not the way to counter such actions."

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