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For Immediate Release:

March 16, 2007 Contact: Peter Karafotas
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SCHAKOWSKY LETTER TO SECRETARY OF STATE RICE: END HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN MEXICO

WASHINGTON, DC--U.S. Representative Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) was joined today by several of her colleagues in the House of Representatives to announce the release of a letter to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

In recent years, there have been hundreds of reports of widespread police brutality, illegal detentions, torture, and other human rights abuses in Mexico.

The letter to Secretary Rice is attached below:

March 16, 2007

The Honorable Condoleezza Rice
Secretary of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Rice:

We are writing to express our concern over the deteriorating human rights situation in Mexico. The situation has become increasingly dire, and we are deeply concerned about the impact on the Mexican people.

Events that took place in 2004 and in 2006 are of special concern, as is the continued repressive nature of the Mexican government's policies.

In May 2004, during the closing ceremony of the Third Summit of Heads of State and Government

Between May 3-4, 2006 in response to protests by members of local peasant organizations, state

In Oaxaca, Governor Ulises Ruiz ordered local and state police to dislodge striking teachers from

The deteriorating human rights situation just over our southern border is of great concern to the U

- Call on President Felipe Calderon to present his administration's human rights agenda, and call on
- Demand that President Calderon fully investigate the murders, beatings, torture, rape and sexual a
- Call on Attorney General Eduardo Medina to ensure a prompt and impartial investigation into the k
- Call on the federal government of Mexico to take the necessary steps to re-establish order and full

Thank for your attention to this serious matter. We look forward to hearing from you by April 1, 2007.

Sincerely,

Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress

Jim McGovern
Member of Congress

Hilda Solis
Member of Congress

Raúl Grijalva
Member of Congress