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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6225

January 19, 2006

The Honorable Gerard Latortue
Prime Minister of the Republic of Haiti
Port-au-Prince

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

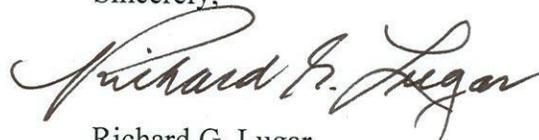
I am very concerned that Roman Catholic priest Father Gerard Jean-Juste, who is imprisoned in Haiti, is seriously ill.

It is my understanding that Dr. Jennifer Furin of Harvard Medical School recently visited with Father Jean-Juste to confirm the cancer diagnosis that was made by Haitian physician Dr. Jacques Boncy. Medical experts are saying that if Father Jean-Juste contracts an infection, then the effects could be fatal. Without appropriate medical treatment, which is unavailable locally in Haiti, his life is in jeopardy.

As you know, Amnesty International designated Father Jean-Juste a prisoner of conscience, and several of my congressional colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives have called for his release. I refer to those expressions of concern, not to argue Father Jean-Juste's pending case, but to note that this international level of concern underscores the need for your urgent attention to the matter.

Therefore, I ask that the Haitian Government grant the immediate humanitarian release of Father Jean-Juste in order for him to receive necessary medical treatment abroad.

Sincerely,



Richard G. Lugar
Chairman

RGL/cmck