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CONGRESSMAN KENDRICK B. MEEK

October 20, 2004

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Secretary Colin Powell  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street, NW  
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202-736-7262 FAX

Dear Secretary Powell:

Thank you for taking the time from your busy schedule last week to speak with me regarding the deteriorating situation in Haiti.

I write today to bring to your attention the arrest and detention of Father Gerard Jean-Juste by the Haitian government. Father Jean-Juste was arrested last Wednesday by a detail of armed police officers and masked men as he prepared to feed hundreds of children at his Port-au-Prince church. Father Jean-Juste is well known and admired in the South Florida Haitian community. I have also written to Ambassador James Foley (see attached) to request his assistance in ensuring that Father Jean-Juste's human and legal rights are safeguarded while he is in detention.

In view of the continually diminishing power of the Haitian government and the fact that armed gangs move freely in the capital and other areas throughout the country, I ask that you provide every assistance possible in ensuring the safety of Father Jean-Juste.

Thank you for your kind consideration of this this urgent matter.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kendrick B. Meek".

KENDRICK B. MEEK  
Member of Congress

Enclosure