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25TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

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October 2, 2020

The Honorable Michael Pompeo
Secretary of State
United States Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC, 20520

Dear Secretary Pompeo,

I write today to encourage the Department of State to take every possible action to return Luke Denman and Airan Berry from their unlawful detention in Venezuela. As you're well aware, Airan and Luke are U.S. Army veterans who were recently sentenced to 20 years in a Venezuelan prison. As the United States' continues to recognize President Juan Guaido as the legitimate leader of the South American country, it only highlights the improper actions of the Maduro regime to detain these two foreign nationals on false charges.

Recently, the United Nations Human Rights Commission put out a scathing report on Maduro's regime, stating that it has engaged in "politically motivated detention and torture" as well as the killing of hundreds of Venezuelans. The level of violence in the country is alarming, and the government is responsible for crimes against humanity and gross violations of human rights.

It is my privilege to represent members of the Denman family who reside in Texas' 25th Congressional district, and to work on their behalf to return home their loved one. Luke and Airan are patriots, Green Berets who deserve better treatment than the veiled threats of torture and murder that are cornerstones of the Maduro regime. I will remain in close communication with my constituents until their family members are safely returned to U.S. soil.

I ask you to do all within your power to bring Luke Denman and Airan Berry home, and to communicate to the Maduro regime that the American people are watching and will not tolerate any form of mistreatment during their unlawful detention. I stand ready to assist your department in every way possible. Please use my office and my team as a resource in any way that we can of assistance.

In God We Trust,

Roger Williams
Member of Congress

CC: Ambassador Roger D. Carstens- Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs (SPEHA).