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ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE  
COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

**TIM RYAN**  
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
17TH DISTRICT, OHIO

July 27, 2011

The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton, Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Clinton:

I write to raise once again a troubling case in my congressional district, *State of Ohio v. Claudia C. Hoerig*. As you may recall, the charging documents establish probable cause that Claudia C. Hoerig fatally shot her husband, U.S. Air Force service member, Major Karl Hoerig, at their Newton Falls, Ohio home on March 12, 2007. The facts leading to the charge of aggravated murder underscore the pre-meditated nature of this heinous crime; Mrs. Hoerig allegedly purchased a Smith & Wesson .357 five shot revolver on March 10, 2007, went to the Warren Shooting Range later that day to practice using the weapon and then fatally shot her husband. According to official documents, Mrs. Hoerig then fled to her native Brazil, where she is thought to retain citizenship, in addition to her September 28, 1999 U.S. naturalization. Mrs. Hoerig remains at large in the Federative Republic of Brazil.

Due to Brazil's constitutional provision prohibiting the extradition of its nationals, Claudia C. Hoerig now enjoys safe haven from the reach of U.S. law and criminal procedure. She has yet to stand trial for the crimes with which she has been charged; Brazil's constitution clearly has served as an unfortunate bar to justice in this case, allowing Mrs. Hoerig to evade the law for over four years, despite the grave charges against her.

The information above regarding the case is a reiteration of previous correspondence, but I would like to draw your attention to a new development—documents that refute Claudia Hoerig's Brazilian citizenship. The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has provided my office with a signed certification (copy enclosed) that evidences Claudia Hoerig's renunciation of Brazilian citizenship. It appears that, given the signed document, Claudia Hoerig cannot legally claim Brazilian nationality and, therefore, must not to be afforded protection under the constitution of the Federative Republic of Brazil.

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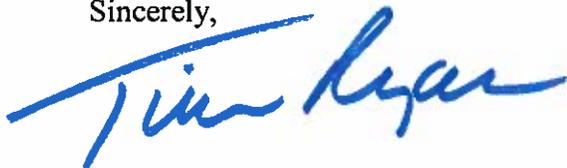
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I would very much appreciate every effort that can be made by the United States to bring justice to bear in this case. I would appreciate your interpretation of the above facts and enclosed document, followed by your detailed plan regarding the potential extradition of the accused. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tim Ryan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends across the width of the signature.

Tim Ryan  
Member of Congress

(Enclosure)