



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

SEP 19 2011

Dear Mr. Ryan:

Thank you for your letter of July 27 regarding Claudia Hoerig, a naturalized U.S. citizen who fled to Brazil after allegedly murdering her husband, U.S. Air Force Major Karl Hoerig, at their home in Ohio. We appreciate your keen and ongoing interest in this case. We wanted to update you on our efforts since you and your staff were briefed on this matter last year.

In your letter, you make reference to documents provided by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) evidencing that Ms. Hoerig took an oath of allegiance at the time she naturalized to become a citizen of the United States, renouncing all allegiance and fidelity to governments other than the United States. We are aware of these documents and worked with the Department of Justice and USCIS to provide them to the Government of Brazil in support of the U.S. extradition request for the extradition of Ms. Hoerig in December 2009.

Based on consultations with Brazilian officials at that time, our hope was that these documents would provide Brazilian authorities with a basis to determine that, as a matter of Brazilian law, Ms. Hoerig lost her Brazilian nationality when she naturalized in the United States and was thus eligible under Brazilian law to be extradited to the United States. Unfortunately, Brazilian authorities denied the United States' extradition request on February 22, 2010, citing Article 5 of the Brazilian Federal Constitution, which prohibits the extradition of Brazilian nationals. We have gone back to Brazil seeking further explanation of this determination, but we are left to conclude that Ms. Hoerig's U.S. naturalization did not result in the loss of her Brazilian nationality under Brazilian law.

The Honorable
Tim Ryan,
House of Representatives.

State Department officials from the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs and the Office of the Legal Adviser briefed you and your staff regarding these developments on several occasions in 2010. As we discussed during these briefings, in lieu of extradition, Brazil did offer to prosecute Ms. Hoerig in Brazil for the murder committed in Ohio. We understand from the Department of Justice that the Ohio State prosecutor handling the matter, Dennis Watkins, has rejected that offer. At this point, neither the Departments of Justice nor State are aware of any additional avenues we can follow to pursue justice in this case. We will however continue to press Brazil for an explanation of its denial of our extradition request.

We hope this information is useful to you. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we may be of further assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. S. Adams", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David S. Adams
Assistant Secretary
Legislative Affairs