LATIN AMERICA BRIEFING: Refugees, Displacement & Hemispheric Stability

From: The Honorable Sam Farr
Date: 2/24/2012

Refugees, Displacement, and Hemispheric Stability in Latin America

4:00pm, Tues, March 6

121 Cannon House Office Building

Dear Colleague:

Armed conflict, violence, and natural disasters have resulted in some 5.4 million refugees and displaced people in Latin America. Colombia, alone, has one of the highest populations of internally displaced people in the world estimated at 3.6-5.2 million, and Mexico has seen a recent rise due to drug-cartel violence. The vast majority of the hemisphere's refugees and displaced live in insecure regions without basic protections or ready access to health services, education, or employment. These precarious conditions make this population especially vulnerable to violence or recruitment by illegal actors, which can fuel instability, jeopardize citizen security, and destabilize already weak regions.

In April, the region's heads of state and government will convene at the VI Summit of the Americas in Cartagena, Colombia to address major issues facing the hemisphere. The Summit is an important opportunity for the United States to examine how our foreign assistance addresses this complex security and humanitarian crisis and promotes durable solutions for these victims of conflict.

Please join me for *Refugees, Displacement, & Hemispheric Stability*, the 3rd briefing in the *Roadmap to Cartagena* series, a four-part series I am hosting in anticipation of the Summit that brings in a diverse array of perspectives to speak to the importance of US aid to Latin America. *Refugees, Displacement & Hemispheric Stability* will look at the impact of US assistance to Latin American refugees and displaced people and how our aid can most effectively bolster security, justice, and prosperity.

Panelists

Richard E. Scott

Chief of Mission, International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Mary DeLorey

Regional Representative ~ Latin America & Caribbean Region

Catholic Relief Services

Michel Gabaudan

President, Refugees International

Moderator

Elizabeth Ferris

Brookings Institution

If you have any questions, please contact Caitie Whelan (Caitie.whelan@mail.house.gov) in my office.

Sincerely,

SAM FARR

Member of Congress

Last installment in the *Roadmap to Cartagena* briefing series:

US Priorities at the VI Summit of the Americas

10am, Thurs, March 22 ~ Congressional Meeting Room North, Capitol Visitors Center