

*News from*  
***Congressman Eliot Engel***

*Representing the Bronx, Westchester, and Rockland Counties*  
*Offices in the Bronx, Mount Vernon and West Nyack*  
*2161 Rayburn HOB, Washington, DC 20515*

---

Contact: Eric Jacobstein or Jason Steinbaum, 202-226-9980  
For Release: Monday, January 25, 2010

**ENGEL JOINS INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM IN EXPRESSING  
SERIOUS CONCERNS ABOUT FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION IN  
VENEZUELA**

Washington, DC – Congressman Eliot L. Engel, Chairman of the House of Representatives Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere, today joined the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights's (IACHR) Commissioner for Venezuelan Affairs, Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro, and Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression, Catalina Botero, in emphatically rejecting the closing of cable television channels in Venezuela and demanding that freedom of expression and due process be reestablished. Chairman Engel issued the following statement:

"The closing of RCTV and several other cable television channels is just another way that President Chavez is seeking to control the media in Venezuela. I stand with Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights's (IACHR) Commissioner for Venezuelan Affairs, and Catalina Botero, the OAS Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression, in demanding that freedom of expression in Venezuela be restored."