

News from

Congressman Eliot Engel

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STATEMENT BY CHAIRMAN ENGEL ON HONDURAS

Congressman Eliot Engel, Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere, made the following statement regarding the deal reached last night to end Honduras's current political crisis:

"I congratulate all sides in Honduras for coming to a successful resolution to the country's current crisis. The Honduran people want to move forward, and this common sense solution will once and for all allow the country to return to normalcy.

"I thank the Obama Administration, Secretary General Jose Miguel Insulza and the Organization of American States (OAS), and Costa Rican President Oscar Arias for their tireless diplomacy in support of this solution. In particular, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has played a fundamental role in encouraging a political solution. It is now imperative that all of Honduras's political institutions work to support this agreement. I would also like to commend President Zelaya and De Facto President Micheletti for embracing this historic opportunity, and I urge them to faithfully and expeditiously implement this agreement.

"As I have said before, Honduras's November 29th presidential elections are the key to the country's future stability. I, once again, urge OAS Secretary General Jose Miguel Insulza to quickly put into place a team of international observers, so that an effective election monitoring effort can take place.

"With the Inter-American community now looking forward to the November 29th elections, I again urge Senator Jim DeMint to lift his holds on President Obama's excellent nominees Arturo Valenzuela and Tom Shannon to be Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs and Ambassador to Brazil. We cannot delay any further. Now more than ever, the hemisphere needs these two outstanding individuals in place."