

DONALD A. MANZULLO
16TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

SENIOR RANKING REPUBLICAN,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
ASIA, THE PACIFIC,
AND THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT

SUBCOMMITTEE ON TERRORISM,
NONPROLIFERATION, AND TRADE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1316

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CAPITAL MARKETS,
INSURANCE, AND GOVERNMENT
SPONSORED ENTERPRISES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON DOMESTIC AND
INTERNATIONAL MONETARY POLICY,
TRADE, AND TECHNOLOGY

REPUBLICAN POLICY COMMITTEE
CHAIRMAN, TASK FORCE ON
MANUFACTURING

September 23, 2008

Chairman David Obey
Committee on Appropriations
H-218, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Jerry Lewis
Committee on Appropriations
H-218, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

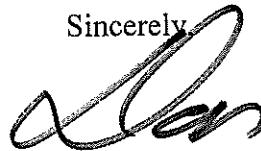
Dear Chairman and Ranking Member:

I am writing to request that the Appropriations Committee immediately suspend future funding for the Merida Initiative until the Government of Mexico concludes its investigation into the unsolved murder of Mr. Bradley Will, which appears to involve Mexican authorities. Mr. Will, whose parents are my constituents, was tragically killed on October 27, 2006 in Oaxaca, Mexico.

Regular law enforcement cooperation between the United States and Mexico cannot continue as long as the Mexican government refuses to finish investigating the murder and prosecute those truly responsible for Mr. Will's death. On April 20, 2008, the Attorney General of Mexico, the Honorable Eduardo Medina Mora Icaza, informed me personally that the investigation into Mr. Will's death was to be completed "within weeks." Five months later the investigation remains unfinished, and Mr. Will's family still does not have any answers. My office has made repeated attempts to obtain more information from the Embassy of Mexico only to be told that the information will be "delivered shortly." Thus, despite my personal intervention, and the intervention of many of my colleagues, the Mexican government still has not produced a final comprehensive report regarding the murder of Mr. Will.

Therefore it appears that the Government of Mexico is not truly interested in enhancing its law enforcement cooperation with the United States. The American taxpayer should not be paying for this type of "cooperation."

Sincerely



Donald A. Manzullo
Ranking Republican Member
Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, and
Global Environment

cc: President George W. Bush
Chairman Howard Berman, Committee on Foreign Affairs
Ranking Member Ros-Lehtinen, Committee on Foreign Affairs