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Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart and MEP Antonio López-Istúriz denounce Nicaragua's elections

Washington/Brussels, 12 December 2012



In a unique demonstration of transatlantic solidarity, U.S. Congressman **Mario Diaz-Balart** (R-FL) and Member of the European Parliament, **Antonio López-Istúriz** (EPP-Spain), issued a joint statement today denouncing Nicaragua's November 6 elections, and called on both the United States and European Union to take immediate action.

"The November 6 presidential and congressional elections showed a blatant disregard for democratic principles" said López-Istúriz, who also serves as the Secretary General of the European People's Party (EPP). "Beginning with the unconstitutional candidacy of Daniel Ortega and ending with the prevention of independent observers, the electoral process was partial, exclusionary and fraudulent. The lack of transparency leaves the election results unverifiable. The international community should not let the results stand without accountability".

"From both sides of the Atlantic, we call on the international community to stand united in denouncing the actions of leaders who manipulate democratic institutions for personal gain. The international community should be equally forceful in encouraging the Nicaraguan Government to adhere to its laws, comply fully with Nicaragua's commitment to the Inter-American Democratic Charter, and respect the right of the Nicaraguan people to participate in a fair, transparent and accountable electoral process.

"The EPP Secretary General and I will be seeking support from our respective legislatures to condemn and highlight the trampling of democracy, and calling on our colleagues and governments to leverage American and European influence to stand up for the Nicaraguan people," said Diaz-Balart. "They deserve no less."

Note to editors:

The EPP is the largest and most influential European-level political party of the centre-right, which currently includes 74 member-parties from 39 countries, the Presidents of the European Commission, European Council, and European Parliament, 16 EU and 6 non-EU heads of state and government, 13 members of the European Commission and the largest Group in the European Parliament.

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