

LETTER FROM JIM REGARDING ERIC VOLZ

Middle Tennessee resident remains in Nicaraguan custody

Dear Friends,

As I'm sure you've heard by now, a Nashvillian named Eric Volz is being held in Nicaraguan custody in violation of an appeals court order to release him. On December 17 the Nicaraguan Court of Appeals overturned Eric's earlier murder conviction and ordered him released immediately. The local judge who presided over his original trial defied the appeals court's order, and as of this writing on December 21, he remains in custody while the prosecutor appeals his case to the Supreme Court. As Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said yesterday, "The court has spoken. We expect him to be released."

Many of you have called for an update, so I wanted to let you know what we've been doing in Washington and in Nashville. My staff and I have kept in close touch with Eric's family, the State Department, fellow Congressional offices and others about this situation, and I have repeatedly encouraged the department to do everything in its power to bring Eric home safely. Secretary Rice is monitoring the situation, as is the White House. This is a crucial time for diplomatic efforts, and for prevailing upon the better instincts of the Nicaraguan government to abide by the rule of law.

We will continue our efforts to reunite Eric with his family in Tennessee. I assure you that the highest officials in our government are working hard on his behalf. Please keep Eric and his family in your thoughts and prayers.

Sincerely,

Jim