

House Foreign Affairs Committee
Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission

Hearing
on
STATE OF EXCEPTION IN EL SALVADOR

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Human Rights Watch

ANSWER
TO REP. JAMES P. McGOVERN (MA)
FOR THE RECORD

QUESTION:

Given that technical difficulties prevented you from being able to provide your final reflections for the record, please send those in written form.

RESPONSE:

It is clear from the accounts of abuses presented at today's hearing that the government is responsible for widespread human rights violations, including arbitrary arrests and serious abuse in detention of people that have no connection to gangs. Authorities should provide security to the people, but in a rights respecting way.

As a final thought, in response to Congressman McGovern's questions, I'd like to highlight that it should be the government of El Salvador the one answering what measures are being taken to seriously address human rights violations, to ensure accountability and to provide reparations to victims of abuse.

I hope they do so in the written submission they will send to this commission. It would be a welcome change from the usual practice of attacking the messenger towards addressing the problems that need to be tackled. Along the same lines, I reiterate our availability to meet with President Bukele to discuss security policy and human rights. We have sent two letters requesting such a meeting with the purpose of taking this conversation outside of insults in the realm of Twitter.