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January 6, 2017

The Honorable Loretta Lynch
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Madam Attorney General:

I am writing to request that you disclose the names of the Ecuadorian officials referenced in the Odebrecht plea agreement or any other individual involved with corruption in Ecuador. As you know, the plea agreement says:

56. In or about and between 2007 and 2016, ODEBRECHT made and caused to be made more than \$33.5 million in corrupt payments to government officials in Ecuador. ODEBRECHT realized benefits of more than \$116 million as a result of these corrupt payments.

57. For example, in or about and between 2007 and 2008, ODEBRECHT experience a number of problems related to a construction contract, and agreed with an intermediary to an Ecuadorian government official with control over public contracts to make corrupt payments to the government official to solve the problems. ODEBRECHT later delivered these payments in case to the government official.

As the State Department's 2015 Human Rights Report for Ecuador notes, "outside pressure and corruption impaired the judicial process," "judges reached decisions based on media influence or political and economic pressures in cases where the government expressed interest," and "officials often engaged in corrupt practices with impunity." The State Department's 2016 Investment Climate Statement for Ecuador further outlines the issue, stating that "corruption is a serious problem in Ecuador" and "illicit payments for official favors and theft of public funds reportedly take place frequently." In its human rights report, the State Department noted that "in cases of public interest, political interference often resulted in impunity." Political pressure from Correa, in addition to the corruption and the lack of an independent judiciary under his regime, make it highly unlikely that Ecuadorian prosecutors will release the names of the officials involved in the Odebrecht case or bring them to justice.

Should justice once again be denied in Ecuador, the kind of corrupt behavior seen in the Odebrecht case will undoubtedly continue unabated, threatening, as FBI Assistant Director in Charge William Sweeney recently said, "our national security and the international free market in which we trade." In the interest of our security, as well as the millions of Ecuadorians seeking a government which provides basic human rights and freedoms to its people, I request that you disclose, in accordance with all applicable rules and regulations, the names of the Ecuadorian officials referenced in the plea agreement and any other official who may be involved.

Sincerely,

ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN
Member of Congress