Dear Petitioners:

I am pleased to address you to inform you that the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights has examined the petition referred to above and approved the Admissibility Report, copy enclosed, pursuant to Article 46 of the American Convention on Human Rights.

In accordance with Article 36(2) of the IACHR Rules of Procedure, Petition 1638-11 has been registered with the case number 14.017, as cited above. Please reference the latter in all future communications.

Pursuant to Article 37(1) of the Rules of Procedure of the IACHR, the petitioners have a period of four months to submit additional observations on the merits of the case. If necessary, this period may be extended to a maximum of six months from the transmission date of this letter. The IACHR also advises that it will be impossible to grant any extension request beyond the specified period. The six-month period may not be extended, in accordance with Article 37(2) of the IACHR Rules of Procedure. You will find attached an informational brochure with relevant information about cases in the merits stage.

If you wish to confirm what has been stated in the admissibility stage and/or have no additional observations on the merits, please indicate accordingly.

Also, based on Article 37(4) of its Rules of Procedure, the Commission makes itself available to the parties for the purpose of reaching a friendly settlement, as provided for in Article 40 of the Rules of Procedure of the IACHR. I would therefore request that you respond to this offer as soon as possible. For more information on the friendly settlement procedure, I recommend consulting the “Handbook: Friendly Settlement Mechanism in the Petition and Case System,” which is available at the following link: http://www.oas.org/en/iachr/friendly_settlements/docs/handbook-fs-en.pdf.

Margaret L. Satterthwaite and Francesca J. Corbacho
Global Justice Clinic
Washington Square Legal Services, Inc
New York University School of Law

Steven Macpherson Watt and Ben Wizner
American Civil Liberties Union
Accordingly, I request that you present your response to that offer as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Marisol Blanchard
Assistant Executive Secretary

Enclosure