

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Marco Rubio
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20451

September 22, 2025

Dear Secretary Rubio:

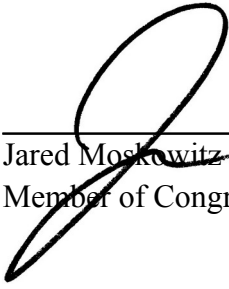
As U.S.-Colombia relations continue to be strained by numerous issues, including the increasingly troubling antisemitic rhetoric and discriminatory policies from Colombian President Gustavo Petro, which are directly threatening the safety and well-being of Colombia's Jewish community, we write to urge the administration to consider even stronger actions, including leveraging U.S. assistance to push for meaningful change in President Petro and his government.

President Petro's ongoing antisemitic remarks on social media, along with his aggressive criticism of Israel that resulted in the severing of diplomatic ties, have contributed to an increasingly hostile environment for Colombian Jews. In April 2025, in what one can only view as a deliberate provocation aimed at legitimizing antisemitic perspectives within government institutions, President Petro appointed Richard Gamboa, a self-proclaimed "rabbi" with anti-Zionist views and dubious credentials who lacks ties with Colombia's Jewish institutions as Director of Religious Affairs at Colombia's Ministry of the Interior. This appointment demonstrates a calculated effort by President Petro to normalize anti-Jewish hatred for political gains, as Gamboa has repeatedly directed harmful and disturbing rhetoric towards the local Jewish community. These tirades have included posts on social media such as "Zionists ARE NOT JEWS," "true rabbis are not Zionists," and "The full weight of the law should fall upon ... defenders of a genocidal regime that usurps and profanes the name of Judaism."

Credible reports suggest that the government may seek to engage with the Interior Ministry's appointee as the official representative liaison, marginalizing the Confederation of Jewish Communities of Colombia as the official representative body. There is genuine concern that Mr. Gamboa will continue to accelerate the deteriorating situation facing Colombian Jewry.

With relations between the U.S. and Colombia at an impasse and as our government redefines the parameters of engagement with President Petro and his government, we urge you to take into consideration President Petro's continued provocations and embrace of antisemitic rhetoric and policies as inconsistent with our shared values and interests.

Sincerely,



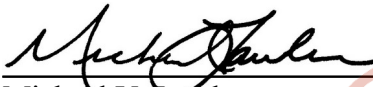
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Member of Congress



Laura A. Gillen
Member of Congress



Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



Michael V. Lawler
Member of Congress



Charles J. "Chuck"
Fleischmann
Member of Congress



Pete Stauber
Member of Congress



Maria Elvira Salazar
Member of Congress



Earl L. "Buddy" Carter
Member of Congress



Gary J. Palmer
Member of Congress



Pat Harrigan
Member of Congress



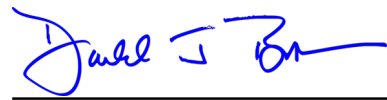
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Bradley Scott Schneider
Member of Congress



Frederica S. Wilson
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Member of Congress



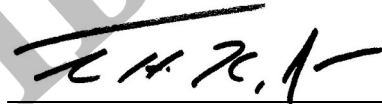
Lois Frankel
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Haley M. Stevens
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