

[ERRATA]
**THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT'S INADEQUATE
RESPONSE TO HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNS IN
BOLIVIA: THE CASE OF AMERICAN JACOB
OSTREICHER**

HEARING
BEFORE THE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON AFRICA, GLOBAL HEALTH,
AND HUMAN RIGHTS
OF THE
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH CONGRESS
SECOND SESSION

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JUNE 6, 2012
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[ERRATA]

An error was made on the cover and page 1 of Serial Number 112-153. The name of Mr. Ostreicher was misspelled in the title.

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JACOB OSTREICHER**

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6, 2012

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON AFRICA, GLOBAL HEALTH,
AND HUMAN RIGHTS,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC.

The subcommittee met, pursuant to notice, at 10 o'clock a.m., in room 2172 Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Christopher H. Smith (chairman of the subcommittee) presiding.

Mr. SMITH. The subcommittee will come to order, and I want to wish everybody a good morning. Thank you for joining us for this extremely important and timely hearing to examine the situation of Mr. Jacob Ostreicher, who has been imprisoned for over 1 year in Bolivia, and the involvement of the State Department in this case.

Normally this subcommittee focuses on human rights issues in the context of whether foreign governments are respecting the rights of their own people. But today we are undertaking the sobering task of defending the human rights of one of our own fellow citizens. Mr. Ostreicher and his wife, Miriam Ungar, who is here with us today to testify on behalf of him, are from New York. His daughter, Chaya Weinberger, will also be testifying, and she is from New Jersey and a resident of my congressional district. She lives in Lakewood.

They are part of a large family and a close-knit Orthodox Jewish community. It was actually Rabbi Aaron Kotler, the chief executive officer of Beth Medrash Govoha, the yeshiva, who first brought Mr. Ostreicher's plight to my attention about 3 weeks ago. Human rights abuses that are happening to Mr. Ostreicher in Bolivia are being felt deeply and personally here in our own country.

Our distinguished witnesses will provide compelling testimony on the facts of Mr. Ostreicher's case and the abuses that he has suffered and continues to suffer. And we will also examine whether Mr. Ostreicher has been receiving the assistance that he should receive as a United States citizen abroad, with the purpose of ascertaining what should be done going forward. We will also do everything we can to correct the ongoing extreme injustice being perpetrated against Mr. Ostreicher and secure his freedom as quickly as possible.