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## **Chairman Reyes Statement On Release Of Hostages In Colombia**

*Washington, DC - House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence Chairman Silvestre Reyes (D-TX) released the following statement on the release of hostages held by FARC rebels in Colombia:*

“For five years, America has waited for the safe return of three Americans held hostage by FARC rebels in the jungles of Colombia. We never lost faith; we never stopped trying to bring them home; we never forgot them. Today, the Colombian government announced that Americans Keith Stansell, Marc Gonsalves, and Thomas Howes have been rescued, along with former Colombian Senator Ingrid Betancourt and 11 others.

“Ensuring the safe return of these hostages has been a priority of the House Intelligence Committee. During my three trips to Colombia as Chairman, I pressed this issue with the Colombian government, and supported our military and intelligence efforts in the region to reunite these hostages with their families. These men and their families have endured enormous suffering over the past five years, and I am grateful they are returning home safely. America welcomes them home and we look forward to the day when all hostages will be released.”