TESTIMONY ON BEHALF OF H.R. 900 OF THE 110TH CONGRESS BY PROFESSOR AND POLITICAL ANALYST JUAN MANUEL GARCIA PASSALACQUA, MARCH 22, 2007.

Members of the Subcommittee on Insular Affairs of the House of Representatives:

I appear before you hereby in support of H.R. 900 of Congressman Jose Serrano, without amendments. I do so, for ten reasons that I will enumerate. I am a graduate of Harvard University and have served as Visiting Professor of Political Science at Yale University. I am at present a member of the Council on Foreign Relations in New York and of the Ambassadors Circle of the Carter Center in Atlanta. It is with those qualifications that I appear before you in writing.

I support H.R. 900 because: It recognizes our nation of 8 million beings. It denounces our century old colonialism. It announces persistence in our anti-colonialism. It makes clear it is your responsibility to end it. It recognizes the right of all those born in Puerto Rico wherever they reside, to participate in deciding our country's future. It constructs that decision to demand that some option gets a clear majority. It challenges you to act. It forces the White House and the full Congress to respond to our people's demands. And, finally, it makes possible the end our consent to colonialism in Puerto Rico in the year 2009. Those ten reasons should be enough to move you.

Furthermore, since this hearing has been called to include an academic analysis of the conundrum before you, I want to contribute to it, the intellectual analysis you have invited.

Your action is necessary in view of the decision of the Circuit of Appeals Court for the District of Columbia of last February 7 in the case of *Boumediene v. United States,* in which it insisted Puerto Rico is, since 1900, an unincorporated territory of the United States. That is what this 111the Congress has to end after more than a century of indecision and avoidance.

For the sake of brevity, I will just recommend instead of extensively citing, a series of published academic texts that by their reasoning would support the approval of H.R. 900: Amy Kaplan and Donald E. Pease, *Cultures of U.S. Imperialism;* Mathew Frye Jacobson, *The United States Encounters Foreign Peoples at Home and Abroad*; Amy Kaplan again, *The Anarchy of Empire in the Making of U.S. Culture*; Alexander Aleinikoff, *Semblances of Sovereignty: The Constitution, the State and American Citizenship*; Gary Lawson and Guy Seidman, *The Constitution of Empire: Territorial Expansion and American Legal History;* Robert Statham, *Colonial Constitutionalism: The Tyranny of United States' Offshore Territorial Policy and Relations;* Bartholomew H. Sparrow, *The Insular Cases and the Emergence of American Empire;* and most important of all Nancy Morris, *Puerto Rico: Culture, Politics and Identity.*

Reading those eight texts will be enough to convince you to adopt H.R. *900.* I am of course available to elaborate for you the relevance of these and other texts published in recent years, as well as the relevance of the cases of *In re Guantanamo* and *Boumediene v. United States*, and I request that these brief remarks be made part of the record of these hearings. ##

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