

Devin Nunes, California, CHAIRMAN

Jeff Miller, Florida  
K. Michael Conaway, Texas  
Peter T. King, New York  
Frank A. LoBiondo, New Jersey  
Lynn A. Westmoreland, Georgia  
Thomas J. Rooney, Florida  
Joseph J. Heck, Nevada  
Mike R. Pompeo, Kansas  
Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Florida  
Michael R. Turner, Ohio  
Brad R. Wenstrup, Ohio  
Chris Stewart, Utah

Adam B. Schiff, California,  
RANKING MEMBER

Luis V. Gutiérrez, Illinois  
James A. Himes, Connecticut  
Terri A. Sewell, Alabama  
André Carson, Indiana  
Jackie Speier, California  
Mike Quigley, Illinois  
Eric Swalwell, California  
Patrick E. Murphy, Florida

Paul D. Ryan, SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE  
Nancy Pelosi, DEMOCRATIC LEADER

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE  
ON INTELLIGENCE

HVC-304, THE CAPITOL  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-4121

DAMON NELSON  
STAFF DIRECTOR

MICHAEL BAHAR  
MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

July 12, 2016

The Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

I urge you not to release from prison Ana Belen Montes, one of the most brazen traitors in U.S. history, and not to transfer her to Cuba.

Thankfully, the list of Americans who have chosen to betray their country is short. Many of the most notorious spies, like Aldrich Ames and Robert Hanssen, were motivated by greed and self-interest. Montes, however, was a true believer who pledged allegiance to the Castro dictatorship and was a fully recruited Cuban agent before she started working at the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) in 1985. She obtained Intelligence Community employment with the express intent of undermining U.S. national security, distorting U.S. policy toward Cuba, and passing information to the murderous regime in Havana. Throughout her career, she sought positions that would expand her access to U.S. secrets and increase her usefulness to Cuba.

By the time she was arrested in 2001, Montes was the DIA's top Cuba analyst and had been selected for a key position supporting the war in Afghanistan. She admitted to revealing the identities of four American undercover intelligence officers, compromised all Cuban-focused collection programs, and may have contributed to the death of American and pro-American forces in Latin America. Much of the information Montes passed likely made its way from Cuba to Russia, China, North Korea, and Iran. In short, Montes was one of the most damaging spies in the annals of American intelligence.

Although she pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit espionage, Montes was—and remains—unrepentant. She betrayed the public trust, the security of the United States, and her oath to support and defend the Constitution while remaining loyal to the Castro brothers in Havana. There is no reason to believe that, if released, Montes would do anything other than perpetuate that betrayal: since she was one of the IC's leading Cuba experts and relied solely on

her memory when spying for the Cubans, she is almost certainly willing and able to resume compromising classified information.

Ana Belen Montes richly deserved her 25-year prison sentence, and she must serve every day of it—not only because her treachery is unpardonable, but because releasing her would make a mockery of the millions of patriotic Americans entrusted with our nation’s most sensitive secrets who uphold their oaths every single day.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Devin Nunes". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "D".

Devin Nunes  
Chairman