

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 24, 2015

The Honorable Eric H. Holder, Jr.
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Mr. Attorney General:

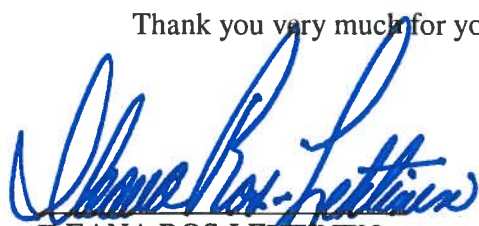
We respectfully request that the Department of Justice, in coordination with the Department of State and the Department of Treasury, bring to the U.S. Ruben Martinez Puente, Lorenzo Alberto Perez y Perez, and Francisco Perez y Perez, who have been indicted in U.S. courts for their roles in the shoot-down over international airspace of the Brothers to the Rescue planes on February 24, 1996. We also urge that these same individuals be designated under Executive Order (E.O.) 13224.

Under E.O. 13224, the United States may block property and prohibit transactions with persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism. The United States may designate someone according to E.O. 13224 if the person poses "a significant risk of committing, acts of terrorism that threaten the security of U.S. nationals or the national security, foreign policy, or economy of the United States." Accordingly, the U.S. has in its possession the recording of General Ruben Martinez Puente, who was the Brigadier General Chief of the Anti-Aircraft Defense and Revolutionary Armed Forces that gave the direct order for the shoot-down, and Lorenzo Alberto Perez y Perez and Francisco Perez y Perez, the fighter pilots who actually shot down the two civilian aircraft, must be designated under E.O. 13224 for their direct role in that act of terror.

Furthermore, the Obama administration made a grave error in releasing Cuban spy Gerardo Hernandez, who was convicted of conspiracy to commit espionage and conspiracy to commit murder for his role in the deaths of three U.S. citizens Carlos Costa, Armando Alejandre, Mario de la Peña and one U.S. legal resident Pablo Morales. Fidel Castro personally accepted responsibility for the shoot-down, and the Cuban Air Force under his direct control murdered innocent humanitarians in international waters. As such, the U.S. government must vigorously pursue legal action against all current and former Cuban regime operatives who perpetrated that murderous attack against the Brothers to the Rescue aircrafts and its unarmed victims.


Within all applicable rules and regulations, we urge you to bring to justice Ruben Martinez Puente, Lorenzo Alberto Perez y Perez, Francisco Perez y Perez, and all Cuban operatives who planned or otherwise participated in the shoot-down and designate them under E.O. 13224. After the Administration wrongly pardoned Hernandez, who is the only person ever held accountable in a U.S. court room for that egregious terrorist attack, it is imperative that the United States pursue justice on behalf of Carlos Costa, Armando Alejandre, Mario de la Peña, Pablo Morales and their surviving families.

Thank you very much for your assistance in this important matter.



ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN
Member of Congress

Sincerely,



MARIO DIAZ-BALART
Member of Congress



CARLOS CURBELO
Member of Congress