

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 9, 2015

The Honorable John Kerry
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

In light of the ongoing crackdown on pro-democracy and human rights activists, we request that you cease providing unilateral concessions to the Castro dictatorship, beginning with an immediate suspension of migration and direct mail talks.

According to reports, more than eighty pro-democracy advocates have been detained by Cuban state security in the last week. Ever since the migration talks were resumed in 2009, after President Bush suspended the talks in 2003, many of us in Congress have raised concerns that these talks appear to lend legitimacy to the illegitimate Cuban communist regime, an avowed enemy of the U.S., that continues to oppress millions of people on the island.

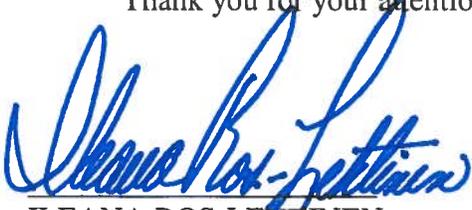
The Administration made a grave error in its announced unilateral changes to U.S. - Cuba policy. According to the changes announced last month, these upcoming scheduled talks will go well beyond the issue of migration and will discuss normalization and restoring of diplomatic relations, which is squarely against Congressional intent and the letter of U.S. law.

The Department of State's press release from December 30, 2014 states that the U.S. "strongly condemn[s] the Cuban government's continued harassment and repeated use of arbitrary detention, at times with violence, to silence critics, disrupt peaceful assembly and freedom expression, and intimidate citizens." It is time that the Administration's words be supported by decisive actions that illustrate to the Cuban people that the U.S. will not look the other way while the people of Cuba continue to be suppressed violently in an attempt to silence pro-democracy voices yearning for freedom.

We agree in the importance of advocating on behalf of U.S. national security interests, human rights, and basic freedoms for the Cuban people. However, mere lip service is inadequate. As such, we urge you to cease unilateral concessions that reward and embolden a brutal dictatorship in the midst of a brutal crackdown. Canceling future talks, and ending unilateral concessions, would signal that the Administration's position on human rights is not just empty rhetoric and broken promises, but is actually supported by concrete actions.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN
Member of Congress



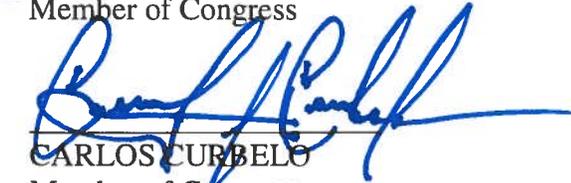
TED CRUZ
U.S. Senator



MARIO DIAZ-BALART
Member of Congress



ALBIO SIRES
Member of Congress



CARLOS CURBELO
Member of Congress



ALEX MOONEY
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