

LEONARD LANCE
SEVENTH DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

December 18, 2014

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

Dear Secretary Kerry:

I am writing to request that the Obama Administration work toward the extradition of U.S. fugitive Joanne Chesimard from communist Cuba.

Ms. Chesimard, a known member of the Black Liberation Army, was found guilty in 1977 of murdering New Jersey State Trooper Werner Foerster and critically injuring another state law enforcement officer. She was sentenced to life in prison, but two years later escaped from the Clinton Correctional Facility for Women in Hunterdon County, New Jersey located in the congressional district I serve. She was granted political asylum by Cuba in 1984 and is currently on the FBI's Most Wanted Terrorist List.

Despite numerous appeals over the years from New Jersey and federal officials to return Ms. Chesimard back to the United States to serve the remainder of her sentence, the Castro regime has remained intransigent.

Any attempt by the Obama Administration to normalize relations with Cuba must include the extradition of Joanne Chesimard back to New Jersey so that she can face justice and serve out her sentence.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Leonard Lance". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

Leonard Lance
Member of Congress
Seventh District, New Jersey