

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 23, 2015

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations
and Related Programs
HT-2 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20004

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations
and Related Programs
2365 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member Lowey:

As you begin crafting the State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs spending bill for Fiscal Year 2016 we ask that you withhold funding required for the normalization of diplomatic relations with Cuba until the Castro regime returns police killer Joanne Chesimard.

Ms. Chesimard 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. 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 and other fugitives, such as William Morales, back to the United States to face justice, the Castro regime has remained intransigent. Most recently, a high ranking Cuban official stated that any consideration of extradition of Ms. Chesimard is off the table. This is completely unacceptable.

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. Until Cuba accepts this condition, we request all funds directed toward normalization be withheld.

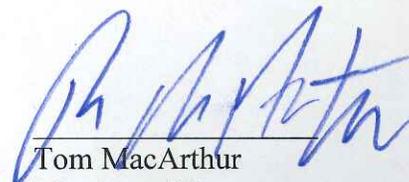
Sincerely,



Leonard Lance
Member of Congress



Scott Garrett
Member of Congress



Tom MacArthur
Member of Congress