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One Hundred Twelfth Congress
U.S. House of Representatives
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September 14, 2012

The Honorable Hillary R. Clinton
Secretary
U.S. Department of State
Washington, DC 20521

Dear Secretary Clinton:

I am gravely concerned that the Department of State continues to give visas to Castro sympathizers under the educational and cultural exchange programs. These apologists only wish to come to the U.S. to promote Castro's communist propaganda and undermine U.S. foreign policy priorities and national security interests.

In October 2011, I wrote a letter to you expressing my concern over the Department's decision to grant visas to a Cuban youth group called La Colmenita. This organization performed a play that was inspired by the Cuban Five, Cuban agents who spied against our nation on behalf of the Cuban regime, a designated state sponsor of terrorism.

It has come to my attention that the Administration has once again granted a visa to another Castro apologists called Nueva Trova Cubana, led by Vicente Feliú. This week, the organization held a concert at the Embassy of Venezuela in Washington, DC to support the Cuban Five. According to reports, Vicente Feliú recently urged the Castro regime to suppress a technology festival organized by the Cuban civil society in order to prevent the Cuban people from exercising their right to free speech by accessing the internet.

Madam Secretary, as you well know, the Cuban Five were convicted of espionage and sought to infiltrate our military and intelligence agencies in the United States. Providing visas to individuals who support their unlawful activities is harmful to our national security objectives. It is clear that participants in these cultural and educational exchanges are proxies for the Castro regime. Therefore, I strongly urge the Administration to suspend all educational and cultural exchanges with the Cuban regime, in furtherance of U.S. law.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ileana Ros-Lehtinen".

ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN
Chairman