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One Hundred Thirteenth Congress  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Committee on Foreign Affairs  
2170 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
[www.foreignaffairs.house.gov](http://www.foreignaffairs.house.gov)

January 8, 2015

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We are writing to request that you publicly release the names and current status of the 53 Cuban political prisoners Havana committed to releasing during talks to normalize diplomatic relations with Cuba. We believe this would allow the American and Cuban people to gauge the Castro regime's commitment to universal human rights standards.

As you know, Cuba has long used politically motivated arrest, imprisonment, and intimidation to restrict political activity and free speech. Despite Cuba's announced commitment to release these individuals, their status remains shrouded in secrecy. Adding to our concerns, it appears that politically motivated arrests have continued, with as many as 50 arrests made since President Obama's December 17<sup>th</sup> announcement of his intention to normalize relations with Cuba. As recently as December 30<sup>th</sup>, Cuba detained several free speech activists before a planned rally in Havana.

Given this ongoing crackdown, it is our concern the Castro regime will either continue to detain individuals it agreed to release or will re-arrest those it has released. Publicly releasing these names would allow Congress, as well as the American and Cuban people, an important means of evaluating Cuba's commitment to human rights. We think you will agree that the United States-Cuba relationship cannot near its considerable potential until the fundamental human rights of the Cuban people are respected by their government.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Edward R. Royce in blue ink.

EDWARD R. ROYCE  
Chairman

Handwritten signature of Eliot L. Engel in blue ink.

ELIOT L. ENGEL  
Ranking Member