

THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON
JAN 12 2015

The Honorable Edward R. Royce, Chairman
Committee on Foreign Affairs
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman,

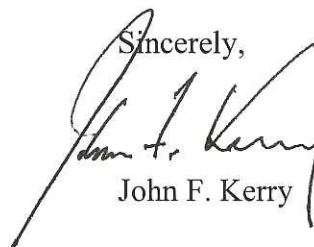
Thank you for your letter of January 8 requesting the names of the 53 political prisoners the United States discussed with the Cuban government. As you know, we shared the names of individuals jailed in Cuba on charges related to their political activities. Raul Castro announced December 17 that the Cuban government had decided to release those individuals. The Government of Cuba began releasing a small number of those individuals in the weeks and months prior to the December 17 announcement. In the last few days, the remainder of the 53 dissidents were released. Attached you will find a list of these individuals.

As President Obama said on December 17, we are "under no illusions about the continued barriers to freedom that remain for ordinary Cubans." In fact, that's one of the key reasons we've shifted our policy – because we know the status quo had not succeeded in helping these Cubans meet their aspirations. We will continue to make clear to the Cuban government that neither those 53 individuals released, nor any Cuban exercising their universal right to have their voices heard, be subject to harassment, arrest or beatings.

Obviously we are deeply concerned by reports of short-term detentions of Cubans peacefully attempting to express their opinions in the wake of the President's announcement. As the President said, we do not expect that the changes to U.S. policy will effect a transformation of Cuban society overnight. We are convinced, however, the old policy of isolation did not achieve its objectives, and that a new policy will more effectively promote our values and help the Cuban people help themselves as they move into the 21st century.

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Sincerely,



John F. Kerry

Enclosure:

As stated.

1. Emilio Planas Robert
2. Alexeis Vargas Martin
3. Diango Vargas Martin
4. Bianco Vargas Martin
5. Ivan Fernandez Depestre
6. Sonia Garro Alfonso
7. Ramon Alejandro Munoz
8. Eugenio Hernandez Hernandez
9. Juliet Michelena Diaz
10. Angel Yunier Remon Arzuaga
11. Vladimir Morera Bacallao
12. Jorge Ramirez Calderon
13. Marcelino Abreu Bonora
14. Wilberto Parada Milan
15. Alcibiades Guerra Marin
16. Jose Leiva Diaz
17. Eider Frometa Allen
18. Alexander Roberto Fernandez Rico
19. Aracelio Riviaux Noa
20. David Piloto Barcelo
21. Enrique Figuerola Miranda
22. Jose Manuel Rodriguez Navarro
23. Lazaro Romero Hurtado
24. Luis Enrique Labrador Diaz
25. Madeline Lazara Caraballo Betancourt (on probation)
26. Miguel Alberto Ulloa Ginard
27. Reiner Mulet Levis
28. Roberto Hernandez Barrio
29. Alexander Otero Rodriguez
30. Angel Figueredo Castellon
31. Anoy Almeida Perez
32. Carlos Manuel Figueroa Alvarez
33. Cesar Andres Sanchez Perez
34. Daniel Enrique Qezada Chaveco
35. David Bustamante Rodriguez
36. Eliso Castillo Gonzalez
37. Ernesto Roberto Rivery Gascon
38. Ernesto Tamayo Guerra
39. Haydee Gallardo Salazar
40. Jorge Cervantes Garcia
41. Jose Lino Ascencio Lopez
42. Juan Carlos Vasquez Osoria
43. Julio Cesar Vega Santiesteban
44. Leonardo Paumier Ramirez
45. Miguel Tamayo Frias
46. Miguel Guerra Hastie

47. Niorvis Rivera Guerra
48. Rolando Reyes Rabanal
49. Ruberlandis Mainet Villalon
50. Sandalio Mejías Zulueta
51. Vladimir Ortiz Suarez
52. Yojarnes Arce Sarmiento
53. Yordenis Mendoza Cobas.