

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 31, 2018

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

In advance of the United Nations General Assembly's meeting to discuss U.S. sanctions against Cuba, we stand in strong support of the United States' resolutions to condemn the regime in Cuba for oppressing the Cuban people. Your solidarity with the people of Cuba is essential at a time when the regime in Cuba perpetrates human rights abuses against pro-democracy activists and fails to uphold fundamental rights and liberties, including representative government, an independent judiciary, and freedom from arbitrary detentions.

For example, Human Rights Watch's World Report on Cuba notes: "The number of arbitrary, short-term detentions increased dramatically between 2010 and 2016, from a monthly average of 172 incidents to 827, according to the Cuban Commission for Human Rights and National Reconciliation [CCHR], an independent human rights group that lacks official authorization and the government considers to be illegal." Moreover, the CCHR reported 5,155 documented arrests in 2017.

The U.S. State Department also reported in its annual Country Reports on Human Rights that, on August 19, 2018,

more than 100 state security agents reportedly used force to break up a family-themed event organized by the political and human rights organization UNPACU. According to UNPACU President Jose Daniel Ferrer, approximately 50 activists, family members, and neighbors had gathered for a picnic on the banks of a river before authorities arrived and used violence and intimidation, including against minors, women, and elderly attendees, to disperse the gathering.

Meanwhile, activist Dr. Eduardo Cardet, of the renowned Christian Liberation Movement, remains imprisoned for daring to speak against the Castro regime.

We appreciate your advocacy on behalf of freedom for the Cuban people, and welcome your Administration's efforts to highlight the strength and courage of Cuba's pro-democracy movement on the global stage. Regrettably, moral clarity, particularly in regard to despotism and human rights abuses, has been sorely lacking at the United Nations. Therefore, we strongly

support your Administration's efforts to stand in solidarity with the Cuban people and to unequivocally condemn their oppressors.

Sincerely,



Marco Rubio
U.S. Senator



Mario Diaz-Balart
Member of Congress

CC: Ambassador Nikki R. Haley, United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations