

105TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 254

Calling on the Government of Cuba to extradite to the United States convicted felon Joanne Chesimard and all other individuals who have fled the United States to avoid prosecution or confinement for criminal offenses and who are currently living freely in Cuba.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 30, 1998

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey (for himself, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Calling on the Government of Cuba to extradite to the United States convicted felon Joanne Chesimard and all other individuals who have fled the United States to avoid prosecution or confinement for criminal offenses and who are currently living freely in Cuba.

Whereas on May 2, 1973, Joanne Chesimard and 2 friends were stopped in their vehicle by New Jersey State Troopers James Harper and Werner Foerster on the New Jersey Turnpike;

Whereas while being questioned, Ms. Chesimard and the driver opened fire with automatic pistols striking Trooper Werner Foerster twice in the chest and Trooper James Harper in the left shoulder;

Whereas the suspects then turned Trooper Foerster's own weapon on him firing an additional two bullets into his head execution style;

Whereas this heinous and premeditated act resulted in the tragic death of New Jersey State Trooper Werner Foerster;

Whereas Trooper Foerster left behind a wife, Rose Foerster, and family;

Whereas in 1977, after a 6 week trial, a jury found Ms. Chesimard guilty of first-degree murder for the slaying of Trooper Foerster, a respected New Jersey State Trooper;

Whereas as a result of this conviction Ms. Chesimard was sentenced to life in a New Jersey State prison;

Whereas in 1979, Ms. Chesimard broke free from a maximum security cell at the Reformatory for Women in Clinton, New Jersey, with the help of 4 men who took a guard and prison van driver hostage;

Whereas after escaping prison, Ms. Chesimard fled to Cuba for political asylum;

Whereas there are currently approximately 90 other individuals who have fled the United States to avoid prosecution or confinement for criminal offenses and are living in Cuba under political asylum;

Whereas these individuals have been indicted or convicted of criminal offenses in the United States and have not paid their debt to society;

Whereas countries should respect each other's justice systems and not provide safe-harbor to individuals who have been indicted or convicted of criminal offenses;

Whereas people in New Jersey were shocked and outraged to see television interviews showing Ms. Chesimard living freely in Cuba, portraying herself as the victim and denying any crimes against Trooper Foerster;

Whereas the Governor of New Jersey, Christine Whitman, has requested Federal assistance from Attorney General Janet Reno for the return of Ms. Chesimard; and

Whereas Members of Congress have petitioned Secretary of State Madeleine Albright requesting that the Department of State do everything in its power to have Joanne Chesimard, and all other individuals who have fled the United States to avoid prosecution or confinement for criminal offenses and who are currently living freely in Cuba, returned to the United States in order for them to face prosecution or confinement in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of Congress that—

3 (1) the Government of Cuba should extradite to
4 the United States convicted murderer Joanne
5 Chesimard in order for her to complete her life sen-
6 tence for the murder of New Jersey State Trooper
7 Werner Foerster;

8 (2) the Government of Cuba should extradite to
9 the United States all other individuals who have fled
10 the United States to avoid prosecution or confine-
11 ment for criminal offenses and who are currently liv-

1 ing freely in Cuba in order for them to face prosecu-
2 tion or confinement in the United States; and

3 (3) the extradition from Cuba to the United
4 States of all individuals who have fled the United
5 States to avoid prosecution or confinement for crimi-
6 nal offenses and who are currently living in Cuba
7 should be a top priority for the United States Gov-
8 ernment.

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