

105TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 244

Calling on the Government of Cuba to extradite Joanne Chesimard from
Cuba to the United States.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 17, 1998

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey submitted the following concurrent resolution;
which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Calling on the Government of Cuba to extradite Joanne
Chesimard from Cuba to the United States.

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

Whereas while being questioned, Ms. Chesimard and the driv-
er 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, a country which has no extradition treaty with the United States;

Whereas there are currently more than 90 other United States fugitives living in Cuba under political asylum;

Whereas these fugitives have been convicted of crimes 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 felons who murder law enforcement officers;

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 get Joanne Chesimard returned to the United States to live out the rest of her life behind bars: 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
4 convicted murderer Joanne Chesimard to the United
5 States in order for her to complete her life sentence
6 for the murder of New Jersey State Trooper Werner
7 Foerster; and

8 (2) the United States should not ease any re-
9 strictions currently in place with respect to Cuba be-
10 fore Ms. Chesimard is extradited to the United
11 States.

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