

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 164

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the human rights situation in Cuba, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 26, 2003

Mr. FLAKE submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the human rights situation in Cuba, and for other purposes.

Whereas the Cuban government continues to systematically violate fundamental civil and political rights of its citizens;

Whereas the Cuban government denies citizens the freedoms of speech, press, assembly, and association;

Whereas the Cuban government denies political dissidents and human rights advocates due process;

Whereas Cuban authorities routinely harass, threaten, arbitrarily arrest, detain, imprison, and defame human rights advocates and members of independent professional associations, including journalists and economists;

Whereas in March 2003 the Cuban government detained dozens of independent journalists and political activists solely for exercising their right to freedom of expression;

Whereas in May 2002 a group of Cuban citizens led by Oswaldo Paya, in an effort known as the Varela Project, submitted over 11,000 signatures to the National Assembly of the Republic of Cuba in support of a referendum on guarantees of human rights and civil liberties;

Whereas many of the supporters of the Varela Project were among those detained in March 2003;

Whereas the Varela Project seeks a national referendum on fundamental civil liberties, including freedom of speech, amnesty for political prisoners, support for private business, a new electoral law, and a general election; and

Whereas the goal of United States policy in Cuba is to promote a peaceful transition to democracy: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) calls on the Cuban government to immediately release all prisoners of conscience, including
3 those detained in March 2003; and
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5 (2) calls on the Cuban government to provide
6 its citizens with internationally-accepted standards
7 for civil, political, and human rights, and the opportunity to vote in free and fair elections.
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