

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4537

To assist the internal opposition in Cuba, and to further help the Cuban people to regain their freedom.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 24, 2000

Mr. DIAZ-BALART (for himself, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. DELAY, Mr. GILMAN, Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma, Mr. HYDE, Mr. DREIER, Mr. GOSS, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. ARCHER, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mrs. FOWLER, Mr. LANTOS, Ms. DUNN, Mr. DEUTSCH, Mr. SHAW, Mr. MCCOLLUM, Mrs. MEEK of Florida, Mr. FOLEY, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. BALLENGER, Mr. BONILLA, Mr. BURR of North Carolina, Mr. CANADY of Florida, Mr. CANNON, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. CUNNINGHAM, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey, Mr. FOSSELLA, Mr. GOODLING, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. GUTKNECHT, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, Mr. KING, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. LAZIO, Mr. LINDER, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. MCINNIS, Mr. MCKEON, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. NEY, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Ms. PRYCE of Ohio, Mr. REYNOLDS, Mr. ROGAN, Mr. ROHRBACHER, Mr. ROTHMAN, Mr. SCARBOROUGH, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. STEARNS, Mr. TRAFICANT, Mr. WELDON of Florida, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. WOLF, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. HANSEN, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. COX, Mr. LUCAS of Oklahoma, Mr. DOOLITTLE, Mr. POMBO, Mr. SHADEGG, and Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

A BILL

To assist the internal opposition in Cuba, and to further help the Cuban people to regain their freedom.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Cuban Internal Oppo-
5 sition Assistance Act of 2000”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) United States law permits and facilitates
9 donations of food, medicine, medical supplies and
10 equipment, clothing, building materials, and other
11 humanitarian assistance to Cuba (31 CFR 515).

12 (2) Since 1992, approximately \$3,000,000,000
13 in humanitarian assistance from the United States,
14 including food, medicine, and clothing has been au-
15 thorized for donation to Cuba (Department of Com-
16 merce, Bureau of Export Administration statistics,
17 10–23–92 through 7–31–97).

18 (3) The United States is the world’s largest
19 source of private humanitarian donations to Cuba
20 (Department of State report “The U.S. Embargo
21 and Health Care in Cuba”, August 5, 1997).

22 (4) United States law permits the sale of medi-
23 cine and medical equipment to Cuba (31 CFR 515).

24 (5) There are a large number of Cubans who
25 are the victims of the most extreme political repres-

1 sion, specifically those surviving immediate relatives
2 of Cubans who were assassinated by the Castro re-
3 gime, political prisoners and their immediate rel-
4 atives, former political prisoners and their immediate
5 relatives, and activists of the internal opposition and
6 their immediate relatives.

7 (6) Thousands of people have been assassinated
8 by the Castro dictatorship during the last 41 years.

9 (7) There are hundreds of thousands of former
10 political prisoners in Cuba.

11 (8) These victims of the most extreme political
12 repression are the victims of the most brutal actions
13 and are systematically denied access to humani-
14 tarian and all other forms of assistance by the
15 Cuban dictatorship.

16 (9) Castro has destroyed what was in 1959
17 Latin America's most developed society and economy
18 (Department of State report "Zenith and Eclipse: A
19 Comparative Look at Socioeconomic Conditions in
20 Pre-Castro and Present-Day Cuba", February 9,
21 1998).

22 (10) For example, data from that State Depart-
23 ment report shows that, during the years of Castro's
24 dictatorship—

1 (A) Cuba, once ranked third in the hemi-
2 sphere in rice production, is now the only coun-
3 try in the hemisphere whose production of rice
4 and yield per acre has fallen since 1958;

5 (B) Cuba's electricity production has fallen
6 and the rate of growth of electrical production
7 ranks 19th of 20 nations in the region (just
8 ahead of Haiti);

9 (C) Cuba ranks last in the hemisphere in
10 export growth, while Mexican exports, equiva-
11 lent to Cuba's in 1958, has increased 130 times
12 since that time;

13 (D) Cuba, ranked third in the hemisphere
14 in 1958 in gold and foreign exchange reserves,
15 is now dead last;

16 (E) Cuba, which in 1957 had more tele-
17 vision stations (23) than any other nation in
18 Latin America, ranked 8th in the world in the
19 number of radio stations (160), and first in the
20 world in the number of daily newspapers (58)
21 for a country of its size, now ranks last in the
22 hemisphere in all these categories;

23 (F) Cuba is the only nation in the hemi-
24 sphere whose number of automobiles per capita
25 has fallen since 1958; and

1 (G) Cuba’s infant mortality rate in 1957
2 was the lowest in Latin America and one of the
3 lowest in the world, lower than 4 of today’s “G–
4 7” nations.

5 (11) The internal opposition movement
6 throughout Cuba, despite its very limited resources,
7 is working intensely to draw international attention
8 to Cuba’s deplorable human rights situation and
9 continues to strengthen and grow in its opposition to
10 the Castro dictatorship.

11 (12) The Cuban Liberty and Democratic Soli-
12 darity Act of 1996 authorized the President to sup-
13 port pro-democracy forces within Cuba and to fur-
14 nish assistance to victims of political repression.

15 (13) The intent of the Cuban Liberty and
16 Democratic Solidarity Act of 1996 to assist the in-
17 ternal opposition inside Cuba has been insufficiently
18 complied with.

19 (14) Requests for licenses to provide assistance
20 to the internal opposition in Cuba have not been
21 granted.

22 (15) January 1, 2000 marked the 41st anniver-
23 sary of the absolute power of the totalitarian regime
24 that oppresses the Cuban people.

1 (16) The Cuban dictatorship's prisons are kept
2 full of political prisoners and prisoners of conscience,
3 of men and women of all ages and all races, evidenc-
4 ing the rejection by the Cuban people of the brutal
5 regime that oppresses them.

6 (17) The internal opposition is in great need of
7 assistance to continue increasing its efforts to offer
8 the Cuban people a democratic alternative to the
9 current dictatorship.

10 (18) The internal opposition in Cuba is made
11 up of valiant pro-democracy activists who have taken
12 and continue to take grave risks to their personal
13 safety and to their families in order to advance the
14 cause of freedom in Cuba.

15 (19) It is necessary for the United States to
16 take serious steps to assist the Cuban internal oppo-
17 sition.

18 **SEC. 3. PURPOSES.**

19 The purposes of this Act are—

20 (1) to take advantage of the historic oppor-
21 tunity created by the increasing efforts and accom-
22 plishments of courageous independent nongovern-
23 mental opposition organizations in Cuba to achieve
24 freedom for the Cuban people and to assist the
25 Cuban people to secure the blessings of liberty;

1 (2) to provide democracy assistance to the vic-
2 tims of the most extreme political repression of the
3 Castro dictatorship, specifically the surviving imme-
4 diate relatives of those assassinated, political pris-
5 oners, former political prisoners, military and former
6 military personnel imprisoned for political reasons,
7 internal opposition activists, and their immediate rel-
8 atives; and

9 (3) to strengthen independent nongovernmental
10 opposition organizations in Cuba committed to the
11 liberation of the Cuban people.

12 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

13 In this Act:

14 (1) **INDEPENDENT NONGOVERNMENTAL OPPO-**
15 **SITION ORGANIZATION.**—The term “independent
16 nongovernmental opposition organization” means a
17 nongovernmental organization inside Cuba that has
18 demonstrated that it is not an agency or instrumen-
19 tality of the Cuban Government, as certified annu-
20 ally by the President with the assistance and in co-
21 ordination with the Committee on International Re-
22 lations of the House of Representatives and the
23 Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, and
24 has publicly or actively made known its opposition to
25 the Cuban Government. Evidence of opposition to be

1 taken into account shall include membership in inde-
2 pendent nongovernmental opposition organizations
3 of political prisoners and former political prisoners.

4 (2) INDEPENDENT NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGA-
5 NIZATION.—The term “independent nongovern-
6 mental organization” means a nongovernmental or-
7 ganization that is not an agency or instrumentality
8 of the Cuban Government, nor is controlled by or
9 supportive of the Cuban Government, as certified
10 annually by the President with the assistance and in
11 coordination with the Committee on International
12 Relations of the House of Representatives and the
13 Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, to
14 facilitate democracy assistance to the victims of the
15 most extreme political repression in Cuba.

16 (3) DEMOCRACY ASSISTANCE.—The term “de-
17 mocracy assistance” means communications equip-
18 ment, printing presses, photocopiers, fax machines,
19 pens, paper and other pro-democracy assistance for
20 independent nongovernmental opposition organiza-
21 tions and the victims of the most extreme political
22 repression, as well as humanitarian assistance cur-
23 rently authorized by section 109 of the Cuban Lib-
24 erty and Democratic Solidarity Act of 1996.

1 (4) VICTIMS OF THE MOST EXTREME POLITICAL
2 REPRESSION.—The term “victims of the most ex-
3 treme political repression” means any Cuban na-
4 tional in Cuba who is—

5 (A) a political prisoner or an immediate
6 relative of one;

7 (B) a former political prisoner or an imme-
8 diate relative of one;

9 (C) a member or former member of the
10 military imprisoned for political reasons or an
11 immediate relative of one; or

12 (D) an individual active within an inde-
13 pendent nongovernmental opposition organiza-
14 tion or an immediate relative of one, or an im-
15 mediate relative of a Cuban assassinated by the
16 Castro regime.

17 (5) IMMEDIATE RELATIVE.—The term “imme-
18 diate relative” means the children, spouses, and par-
19 ents of the most extreme victims of political repres-
20 sion.

1 **SEC. 5. SUPPORT FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE MOST EX-**
2 **TREME POLITICAL REPRESSION AND INDE-**
3 **PENDENT NONGOVERNMENTAL OPPOSITION**
4 **ORGANIZATIONS.**

5 (a) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS AND REQUIRE-
6 MENTS.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—Of the amounts made avail-
8 able under section 109(a) of the Cuban Liberty and
9 Democratic Solidarity Act of 1996 (22 U.S.C.
10 6030(a)) for any fiscal year, the President shall use
11 funds to carry out activities to assist the victims of
12 the most extreme political repression and to assist
13 independent nongovernmental opposition organiza-
14 tions inside Cuba.

15 (b) VERIFICATION OF ASSISTANCE DISTRIBUTION.—
16 To assure that distribution of assistance is in compliance
17 with the intent of this Act, the President shall ensure that
18 adequate verification and monitoring is in place to assure
19 that such assistance will be delivered only to the victims
20 of the most extreme political repression and to inde-
21 pendent nongovernmental opposition organizations.

22 (C) REMITTANCES TO INDEPENDENT NONGOVERN-
23 MENTAL OPPOSITION ORGANIZATIONS.—The President
24 shall authorize the issuance of licenses to independent
25 nongovernmental organizations to send monetary remit-
26 tances to independent nongovernmental opposition organi-

1 zations for the purposes of carrying out activities specified
2 in section 109 of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Soli-
3 darity Act of 1996.

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