

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 57

Expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the human rights situation
in Cuba.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 4, 1999

Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. MACK, Mr. TORRICELLI, Mr. HELMS, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. ROBB, and Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the human
rights situation in Cuba.

Whereas the annual meeting of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in Geneva, Switzerland, provides a forum for discussing human rights and expressing international support for improved human rights performance;

Whereas, according to the United States Department of State and international human rights organizations, the Government of Cuba continues to commit widespread and well documented human rights abuses in Cuba;

Whereas such abuses stem from a complete intolerance of dissent and the totalitarian nature of the regime controlled by Fidel Castro;

Whereas such abuses violate internationally accepted norms of conduct;

Whereas the Government of Cuba routinely restricts worker's rights, including the right to form independent unions, and employs forced labor, including that by children;

Whereas Cuba is bound by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

Whereas the Government of Cuba has detained scores of citizens associated with attempts to discuss human rights, advocate for free and fair elections, freedom of the press, and others who petitioned the government to release those arbitrarily arrested;

Whereas the Government of Cuba has recently escalated efforts to extinguish expressions of protest or criticism by passing state measures criminalizing peaceful pro-democratic activities and independent journalism;

Whereas the recent trial of peaceful dissidents Vladimiro Roca, Marta Beatriz Roque, Felix Bonne, and Rene Gomez Manzano, charged with sedition for publishing a proposal for democratic reform, is indicative of the increased efforts by the Government of Cuba to detain citizens and extinguish expressions of support for the accused; and

Whereas these efforts underscore that the Government of Cuba has continued relentlessly its longstanding pattern of human rights abuses and demonstrate that it continues to systematically deny universally recognized human rights: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that at
2 the 55th Session of the United Nations Human Rights
3 Commission in Geneva, Switzerland, the United States
4 should make all efforts necessary to pass a resolution, in-
5 cluding introducing such a resolution, criticizing Cuba for
6 its human rights abuses in Cuba, and to secure the ap-
7 pointment of a Special Rapporteur for Cuba.

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