

MARIO DIAZ-BALART

25TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

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September 2, 2021

The Honorable Linda Thomas-Greenfield  
U.S. Representative to the United Nations  
U.S. Mission to the United Nations  
799 United Nations Plaza  
New York, NY 10017

Dear Ambassador Thomas-Greenfield,

As a Member of Congress with a profound interest in supporting democracy and human rights in Cuba, and as a senior Member of the State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs Subcommittee of the House Committee on Appropriations, I believe you should lead a coordinated, global effort in furtherance of freedom for the Cuban people as they attempt to rid themselves of the communist tyranny that has brutally oppressed them for six decades.

On July 11, 2021, thousands of Cubans flooded the streets in more than forty cities and throughout every province on the island with shouts of "Freedom!" The Cuban regime responded to these peaceful protests with brutality, arbitrary arrests, the use of live ammunition, and an internet blackout. Shamefully, many activists remain imprisoned to this day with several, such as longtime activist Felix Navarro, are in dangerously poor health without access to proper medical care.

As an important voice within the Biden Administration, you have an opportunity to highlight these abuses, and join the Cuban people in their calls for the release of all political prisoners, legalization of expression and independent press, trade unions, and political parties legalized, and the scheduling of free, fair, and multiparty elections. In fact, at this moment, I am informed by my constituent that a group of Cuban-American pro-democracy activists are holding a hunger strike outside the United Nations in New York to call for international support of the democratic aspirations of the Cuban people. They have made the long trip and personal sacrifice to highlight the human rights abuses in Cuba, and would welcome a meeting with you on ways to urge the international community to help the Cuban people achieve a democratic future. These and so many others, both within the diaspora and on the island, are seeking support for those who risk everything for freedom despite the threats of torture, imprisonment, and even death.

For these reasons, within all applicable rules and regulations, I believe you should condemn the human rights abuses perpetrated by the Cuban regime, and lead the international community in providing unequivocal solidarity with the Cuban people in their demands for freedom.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several large, fluid loops and curves, positioned above the printed name and title.

Mario Diaz-Balart  
Member of Congress