

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 25, 1997

President Fidel Castro  
Palacio de la Revolución  
Havana, Cuba

Dear Mr. President,

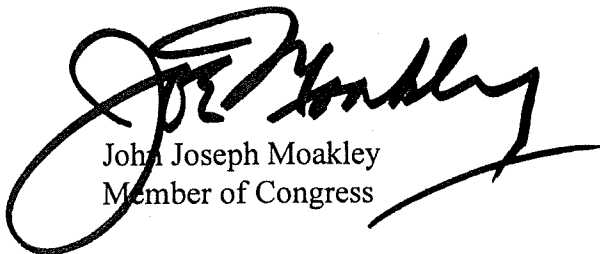
With due respect, we are writing to express our deep concern for the five Cuban citizens that were detained on July 16, 1997. These arrests have been confirmed by representatives of your government, and subsequently, we are writing to urge that these individuals be released immediately. As we became acquainted with some of these individuals during our visit to Cuba in January 1996, we are personally concerned with their safety and well-being.

As members of the Internal Dissidents' Working Group for the Analysis of the Cuban Socio-Economic Situation, Vladimiro Roca, Martha Beatriz Roque, Felix Bonne, and Rene Gomez Manzano are respected individuals in their community, and their organization has created an opportunity for greater communication and discussion in Cuba. In addition, another respected individual, Luis Lopez Prendes, an independent journalist, has also been detained for unclear reasons.


As you know, both of us are deeply committed to fostering better relations between the United States and Cuba. At the same time, we cannot be silent on violations of basic human rights and restrictions on freedom of speech.

Please consider our urgent appeal on behalf of these individuals. We look forward to an immediate end to their detainment.

Sincerely,



John Joseph Moakley  
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress