



US

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives

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Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon  
United Nations  
1775 K Street Northwest, Suite 400  
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

We have been contacted by family members of the many Cuban refugees who are detained in Mexico. As you are aware, Cubans attempt to escape the repression of the Communist regime ever year. Some of those refugees drift off course and make landfall in Mexico. Once there, these Cubans state that while under detention, they suffer from beatings, malnutrition, dehydration, and poor medical care.

There are four groups which we are particularly concerned about. The first group consists of 10 Cubans intercepted off the coast of Cancun two months ago. They have started a hunger strike in protest of the treatment and conditions. The second group consists of four Cubans who are being detained in Chiapas. One of them is in urgent need of a colon operation and has been detained for five months without proper medical care. The third group consists of 11 Cubans (four children and six adults) being held in Merida. The fourth group consists of 13 Cubans detained in Tapachulas.

Many human rights activists and family members of the detainees have expressed their concern regarding the treatment and conditions of these Cuban freedom seekers. I join many in the community in urging you to do all that is in your power to help these freedom seeking refugees find suitable host countries as soon as possible. I also urge you to make sure that they receive appropriate medical care and nutrition by Mexican authorities, in accordance with international laws regarding refugees.

Sincerely,

Ileana Ros-Lehtinen  
Member of Congress

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