

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 198

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 216th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 12, 2015

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman SEAN T. KEAN

District 30 (Monmouth and Ocean)

Assemblywoman MARY PAT ANGELINI

District 11 (Monmouth)

SYNOPSIS

Expresses profound disagreement with President's decision to restore full diplomatic relations with Cuba; urges extradition to the United States of Joanne Chesimard.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/30/2015)

1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** expressing profound disagreement
2 with the decision of the President of the United States to restore
3 full diplomatic relations with Cuba and urging the extradition to
4 the United States of Joanne Chesimard.
5
6 **WHEREAS**, On December 17, 2014, the President of the United States
7 announced that this country would restore full diplomatic relations
8 with the nation of Cuba after more than 50 years of unconcealed
9 hostility; and
10 **WHEREAS**, Cuba has been under the crushing yoke of a brutal
11 communist dictatorship since 1959, led first by Fidel Castro and
12 more recently by his brother Raul; and
13 **WHEREAS**, The actions of the Castro brothers have resulted in the
14 impoverishment of the Cuban people, and the complete and blatant
15 disregard of human rights and democratic principles by the
16 government of that Caribbean nation; and
17 **WHEREAS**, Cuba under the Castros has been an active and ominous
18 threat to the vital interests of this nation and all peace-loving
19 countries, as members of Cuba's military and diplomatic corps have
20 worked assiduously through the years to promote violent, anti-
21 democratic revolutions in different parts of the world; and
22 **WHEREAS**, The diplomatic initiative announced by the President
23 involved the release of U.S. government subcontractor Alan Gross
24 by Cuba after five years of detention due to the absurd and
25 unfounded allegation of being a spy, and the release by the United
26 States of three convicted Cuban spies linked to terroristic activities
27 in this country; and
28 **WHEREAS**, Numerous respected public federal and State officials, both
29 Democratic and Republican, have denounced this move by
30 President Obama and believe strongly that it will do nothing to free
31 the Cuban people from the poverty and injustice they have suffered
32 for more than half a century and that it will only serve to support a
33 tottering and bankrupt dictatorship; and
34 **WHEREAS**, Residents of New Jersey are very familiar with the
35 viciousness of the Castro regime because the State has become the
36 home of thousands of Cuban-born men and women who fled from a
37 regime intent on stealing their property and putting them at the
38 service of a brutal military government, and who know first-hand
39 how the Castro brothers have destroyed the culture and economic
40 vitality of their homeland; and
41 **WHEREAS**, Joanne Chesimard, also known as Assata Shakur, was
42 convicted in 1977 of the May 2, 1973 murder of New Jersey State
43 Trooper Werner Foerster and wounding of New Jersey State
44 Trooper James Harper during a shoot-out on the New Jersey
45 Turnpike, and fled to Cuba after escaping from prison; and
46 **WHEREAS**, In light of the re-establishment of diplomatic relations
47 between the nations, Cuba is urged to extradite Joanne Chesimard

1 to the United States so that she may be brought to justice for the
2 murder of a dedicated law enforcement officer; and

3 **WHEREAS**, It is fitting and proper for this House to express profound
4 disagreement with the decision of the President of the United
5 States to restore full diplomatic relations with Cuba and to urge
6 the extradition to the United States of Joanne Chesimard; now,
7 therefore,

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9 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the General Assembly of the State of New
10 Jersey:

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12 1. This House expresses profound disagreement with the
13 decision of the President of the United States to restore full
14 diplomatic relations with Cuba, and urges the extradition to the
15 United States of Joanne Chesimard.

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17 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
18 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly to the
19 President of the United States, the Majority Leader of the United
20 States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of
21 Representatives and to every member of Congress elected thereto
22 from this State.

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24

25 STATEMENT

26
27 This Assembly Resolution expresses profound disagreement with
28 the decision of the President of the United States to restore full
29 diplomatic relations with Cuba, and urges the extradition to the
30 United States of Joanne Chesimard.