



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

Representing America's Finest

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March 22, 2016

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

The Honorable Loretta Lynch
Attorney General
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear President Obama and Attorney General Lynch:

On behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), I am writing to you regarding the urgent need to include the extradition of violent criminals as part of the United States reopening of diplomatic relations with Cuba.

NAPO is a coalition of police unions and associations from across the United States that serves to advance the interests of America's law enforcement through legislative and legal advocacy, political action, and education. Founded in 1978, NAPO now represents more than 1,000 police units and associations, 241,000 sworn law enforcement officers, and more than 100,000 citizens who share a common dedication to fair and effective crime control and law enforcement.

As the Administration works to reestablish diplomatic ties with Cuba, the DOJ, together with the Department of State, must work on bringing back violent criminals who fled to Cuba, such as cop-killer Joanne Chesimard, so that they can be brought to justice. Chesimard is on the FBI's most wanted terrorist list for her role in the cold-blooded killing of New Jersey State Trooper Werner Foerster in 1973. The fact that she – and violent felons like her – are living free in Cuba is an affront to the men and women who have dedicated their lives to protecting our communities as law enforcement officers – above all to the family and friends of police officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

At a White House meeting on Officer Safety and Wellness on March 10, 2016, I brought up this important issue to the Director of the White House Office of Urban Affairs, Justice, and Opportunity, Roy Austin, and the Director of the COPS Office, Ron Davis. With your historic trip to Cuba this week, Mr. President, it is disconcerting that we have not heard anything related to NAPO's concerns on the extradition of violent criminals.

NAPO strongly believes that the U.S. Government should do everything in its power to ensure the extradition of violent criminals and cop-killers from Cuba.

As diplomatic relations between the two countries are being restored, the Administration must address this issue. You have the ability to ensure that these felons face justice and to bring peace to the families of those who lost their lives.

NAPO urges you to consider the extradition of violent felons as top priority in the reestablishment of diplomatic relations with Cuba. All criminals who flee the United States must be promptly returned.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William J. Johnson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

William J. Johnson
Executive Director