



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

Representing America's Finest

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Executive Director and

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The Honorable Robert Menendez
United States Senate
528 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Marco Rubio
United States Senate
284 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Menendez and Rubio:

On behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), I am writing to you to express our strong support for S. Res. 232, which calls for the immediate extradition of Joanne Chesimard – and other violent fugitives like her – from Cuba.

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

Joanne Chesimard is the first woman to be added to 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.

Further, the extradition of violent criminals and cop-killers, like Chesimard, from the countries harboring them is an important component of increasing protections for officers. A violent criminal will not fear repercussions for killing an officer if they know they can flee to Cuba and live a full and free life there, avoiding justice. The government must go after these violent killers, not only to show we take our laws against killing officers seriously, but so that they serve time for what they have done.

NAPO strongly believes that the U.S. Government should do everything in its power to extradite violent criminals and cop-killers from Cuba to ensure that these felons face justice and to bring peace to the families of those who lost their lives. Therefore, we support S.Res. 232 and stand with you in your call for the Administration to do everything in its power to make certain that all criminals who flee the United States are promptly returned.

We thank you for your leadership on this issue. If we can provide any additional information or assistance, please feel free to contact me at (703) 549-0775.

Sincerely,

William J. Johnson, Esq., CAE
Executive Director