



**INTERNATIONAL UNION  
OF POLICE ASSOCIATIONS  
AFL-CIO**

*THE ONLY UNION FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS*

SAM A. CABRAL  
*International President*

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*International Secretary-Treasurer*



January 27, 2015

The Honorable Lindsey Graham  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Graham:

On behalf of the International Union of Police Associations, representing more than 100,000 rank and file active duty law enforcement professionals across this great nation as well as in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, I applaud your stance regarding the normalization of relations with the Cuban government.

As you know, the Cuban government has long provided sanctuary to Joanne Chesimard, aka Assata Shakur, a convicted and escaped murderer of New Jersey State Trooper Werner Foerster in May, 1973. Ms. Chesimard escaped custody in 1979 and, according to the FBI, "with help from a coalition of radical, domestic terror groups who took two guards hostage during an armed assault at the facility where she was being lodged," she has been living as a minor celebrity in Cuba since, at least 1980. She is also on the FBI's Ten Most Wanted list.

The fact that her immediate return to this nation is not a prerequisite to any formal talks about relations with Cuba is an insult to the American Police Officer in general, and to the survivors of Trooper Foerster in particular.

We have sat back and observed this Administration belittle and minimize our members for the past six years. This event surpasses even our most pessimistic views of how we are viewed, treated and listened to by this President and his staff.

If we can provide any assistance to you in your role on the Foreign Relations committee or in any other manner to give incentive for our insistence on the return of this murderer, we are willing, and we look forward to being given that opportunity.

I pray that you, your staff and your colleagues can find a way to make this matter right before there is any serious talk of normalization with Cuba.

Very Respectfully,

Sam A. Cabral  
International President