



U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

November 10, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden,

I am writing to warn you about an impending assault on the Cuban people and their basic human rights. You must be ready to support the Cuban people when their cries for freedom flood the streets once again. A new wave of protests against the tyrannical Cuban regime is scheduled to occur on Monday, November 15<sup>th</sup>. Dictator Miguel Diaz-Canel intends to unleash the loyal thugs of the communist revolution to beat and murder peaceful protestors in the streets. We cannot stand by as people are massacred in broad daylight.

**Having internet is the most important thing the Cuban people need at this moment.** When the Cuban people took to the streets in historic numbers this July, the regime forcibly shut down internet and social media access to prevent photos and videos of the violent crackdown from leaving the island. NetBlocks, an international internet use monitor, tracked and confirmed these shutdowns and interruptions from the Cuban internet provider, Empresa de Telecomunicaciones de Cuba (ETECSA). The Cuban regime is planning to shut down the internet once again. They do not want the world to know what is really happening in Cuba, and having internet is the only way we can truly know the horrors they are willing to unleash on their own people.

**Congress passed a very clear directive to provide internet to the Cuban people on November 3, 2021, when it passed House Resolution 760.** This resolution directly urges the Biden Administration to “work with Cuban activists, civil society groups, private United States companies, and the international community to expand internet access for the Cuban people.” I have met with a broad range of private stakeholders about providing internet to the Cuban people and have begged the State Department and your Administration for months to do their due diligence as well. It is essential for you to meet with all the relevant private stakeholders and government officials to stand up reliable internet connectivity for the island of Cuba. Failure to do so is a failure to stand with the Cuban people.

**Next week, you must be prepared to take action.** The Cuban people need the support of the United States. During the July protests, the Star-Spangled Banner was waved across the island of Cuba as a sign of hope for those wanting to exercise their basic human rights. I implore you to uphold the United States as that symbol of hope, and to have a strategy prepared to restore internet to the Cuban people should the regime force an internet shutdown as they have in the past.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Elvira Salazar'.

Maria Elvira Salazar  
Member of Congress