

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 97

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 20, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman RONALD S. DANCER

District 12 (Burlington, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean)

SYNOPSIS

Urges Congress to pass resolution calling for extradition of Joanne Chesimard, William Morales, and other fugitives from Cuba to U.S.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** urging Congress to pass the resolution
2 calling for the extradition of Joanne Chesimard, William
3 Morales, and other fugitives from Cuba to the United States.
4
5 **WHEREAS**, Joanne Chesimard, named on the Federal Bureau of
6 Investigation's (FBI) most wanted terrorist list, was convicted of
7 the May 2, 1973 murder of New Jersey State Trooper Werner
8 Foerster; and
9 **WHEREAS**, William Morales, leader and chief bomb-maker for the
10 terrorist organization Fuerzas Armadas de Liberación Nacional,
11 committed numerous terrorist attacks on United States soil,
12 including the bombings of Fraunces Tavern in lower Manhattan on
13 January 24, 1975, and the Mobil Oil employment office in New
14 York on August 3, 1977, which killed five people and injured over
15 60 others; and
16 **WHEREAS**, More than 70 fugitives from the United States, charged
17 with offenses ranging from hijacking to kidnapping to drug offenses
18 to murder, are believed to be receiving safe haven in Cuba; and
19 **WHEREAS**, Other fugitives from United States justice who are
20 receiving safe haven in Cuba include Charles Hill who is wanted
21 for the killing of a State trooper in New Mexico and Victor Manuel
22 Gerena who is on the FBI's list of the ten most wanted fugitives for
23 carrying out a brutal robbery of a Wells Fargo armored car in
24 Connecticut; and
25 **WHEREAS**, According to the treaty between the United States and
26 Cuba for the Mutual Extradition of Fugitives from Justice, signed in
27 Washington on April 6, 1904, and the Additional Extradition Treaty
28 between the United States and Cuba, signed in Havana on January
29 14, 1926, the United States has a bilateral extradition treaty with
30 Cuba; and
31 **WHEREAS**, In January 2002, the government of Cuba deported to the
32 United States Jesse James Bell, a United States fugitive wanted on
33 drug charges; and
34 **WHEREAS**, In March 2002, the government of Cuba extradited drug
35 trafficker Luis Hernando Gomez Bustamante to Colombia, and
36 Gomez Bustamante was subsequently extradited to the United
37 States in July 2007 to face drug trafficking charges; and
38 **WHEREAS**, United States Senator Robert Menendez, the United States
39 Senator for New Jersey's 13th congressional district, introduced
40 Senate Resolution No. 232 calling for the immediate extradition of
41 Joanne Chesimard, William Morales, and all other fugitives from
42 justice who are receiving safe haven in Cuba in order to escape
43 prosecution or confinement in the United States; and
44 **WHEREAS**, It is imperative that the government of Cuba abide by its
45 extradition treaty with the United States and immediately extradite
46 or expel to the United States those legally indicted or convicted of
47 serious criminal offenses in the United States; now, therefore,

AJR97 DANCER

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1 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*
2 *State of New Jersey:*

1. The Governor and the Legislature of the State of New Jersey respectfully urge the United States Congress to pass United States Senate Resolution No. 232 calling for the immediate extradition or expulsion to the United States of convicted felons Joanne Chesimard, William Morales, and all other fugitives from justice who are receiving safe haven in Cuba in order to escape prosecution or confinement for criminal offenses committed in the United States.

2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State, shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly or the Secretary of the Senate to the President of the United States, the Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States Senate, the Speaker and Minority Leader of the United States House of Representatives, and every member of Congress elected from this State.

21 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

24 STATEMENT

26 This joint resolution urges the United States Congress to pass
27 United States Senate Resolution No. 232 calling for the immediate
28 extradition of Joanne Chesimard, William Morales, and all other
29 fugitives from justice who are receiving safe haven in Cuba in order
30 to escape prosecution or confinement in the United States.

31 United States Senator Robert Menendez of New Jersey and
32 United States Senator Marco Rubio of Florida recently introduced
33 United States Senate Resolution No. 232 calling for the immediate
34 extradition of Joanne Chesimard, William Morales, and all other
35 fugitives from justice.

36 State authorities have made numerous efforts to extradite Joanne
37 Chesimard and in 2013, Joanne Chesimard was the first woman
38 named to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's most wanted
39 terrorist list.

40 In 2015, President Obama restored diplomatic relations that the
41 United States severed with Cuba more than 50 years ago. In light
42 of this re-establishment of relations, Cuba is urged to immediately
43 extradite all fugitives.