

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 13

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator JOSEPH PENNACCHIO

District 26 (Essex, Morris and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Doherty, T.Kean, Oroho, Singer, Addiego, Connors, Bateman, Holzapfel and Madden

SYNOPSIS

Urges Cuba to extradite Joanne Chesimard to U.S.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



SR13 PENNACCHIO

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1 **A SENATE RESOLUTION** urging Cuba to extradite Joanne Chesimard
2 to the United States.

4 **WHEREAS**, Joanne Chesimard, also known as Assata Shakur, was
5 convicted in 1977 of the May 2, 1973 murder of New Jersey State
6 Trooper Werner Foerster and wounding of New Jersey State
7 Trooper James Harper during a shoot-out on the New Jersey
8 Turnpike; and

9 **WHEREAS**, After being pulled over for a routine traffic stop, Joanne
10 Chesimard and fellow members of the radical Black Liberation
11 Army opened fire on Troopers Foerster and Harper, and Joanne
12 Chesimard eventually killed Trooper Foerster reportedly “execution
13 style” by shooting him in the head as he lay wounded by gunfire;
14 and

15 **WHEREAS**, In 1977, Joanne Chesimard was sentenced to life in prison,
16 but two years later escaped from a maximum security cell in what is
17 now the Edna Mahan Correctional Facility for Women in Union
18 Township, New Jersey, and later fled to Cuba, where she was
19 granted political asylum and has since lived; and

20 **WHEREAS**, State authorities have made numerous efforts to extradite
21 Joanne Chesimard, including an appeal to Pope John Paul II, who
22 made a historic trip to Cuba in 1998; and

23 **WHEREAS**, In 2013, Joanne Chesimard was the first woman named to
24 the Federal Bureau of Investigation's most wanted terrorist list,
25 indicating State and federal law enforcement consider her to be one
26 of the greatest threats to the American government; and

27 **WHEREAS**, President Obama recently announced that the United States
28 will restore diplomatic relations it severed with Cuba more than 50
29 years ago; and

30 **WHEREAS**, In light of the re-establishment of diplomatic relations
31 between the nations, Cuba is urged to extradite Joanne Chesimard
32 to the United States so that she may be brought to justice for the
33 murder of a dedicated law enforcement officer; now, therefore,

35 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate of the State of New Jersey:*

37 1. This House urges Cuba to extradite Joanne Chesimard to the
38 United States.

2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State, shall be transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to the charge d'affaires or United States Ambassador to Cuba and the Secretary of State of the United States.

STATEMENT

48 This Senate Resolution urges Cuba to extradite Joanne
49 Chesimard to the United States.

SR13 PENNACCHIO

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1 Joanne Chesimard, also known as Assata Shakur, was convicted
2 in 1977 of the May 2, 1973 murder of New Jersey State Trooper
3 Werner Foerster and wounding of New Jersey State Trooper James
4 Harper during a shoot-out on the New Jersey Turnpike. After being
5 pulled over for a routine traffic stop, Joanne Chesimard and fellow
6 members of the radical Black Liberation Army opened fire on
7 Troopers Foerster and Harper, and Joanne Chesimard eventually
8 killed Trooper Foerster by shooting him in the head as he lay
9 wounded by gunfire.

10 In 1977, Joanne Chesimard was sentenced to life in prison, but
11 two years later she escaped from a maximum security cell in what is
12 now the Edna Mahan Correctional Facility for Women in Union
13 Township, New Jersey. Joanne Chesimard later fled to Cuba, where
14 she was granted political asylum and has lived ever since.

15 State authorities have made numerous efforts to extradite Joanne
16 Chesimard and in 2013, Joanne Chesimard was the first woman
17 named to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's most wanted
18 terrorist list.

19 President Obama recently announced that the United States will
20 restore diplomatic relations it severed with Cuba more than 50 years
21 ago. In light of this re-establishment of relations, Cuba is urged to
22 extradite Joanne Chesimard to the United States so that she may be
23 brought to justice for the murder of a dedicated law enforcement
24 officer.