

Congresistas cubanoamericanos piden condenar ante la ONU hundimiento de lancha en Bahía Honda

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MIAMI, Estados Unidos. — Los congresistas cubanoamericanos Mario Díaz-Balart, María Elvira Salazar y Carlos Giménez, del estado de Florida, así como Albio Sires de Nueva Jersey y Nicole Malliotakis, ambos de Nueva York, pidieron a la embajadora de Estados Unidos ante Naciones Unidas, Linda Thomas-Greenfield, condenar la masacre de Bahía Honda y convocar a una investigación internacional para determinar si constituyen crímenes de lesa humanidad.

En una carta firmada este jueves, los representantes solicitaron a la diplomática un pronunciamiento sobre los hechos ante el organismo internacional.

“Le escribimos para expresarle nuestra profunda preocupación respecto al hundimiento, por el régimen cubano, de una lancha, cerca de Bahía Honda, que tuvo como resultado la muerte de al menos siete personas, entre ellas una niña”, indica la misiva.

Los congresistas señalan que el hundimiento de la lancha, y las consiguientes muertes que generó, deben ser condenados en virtud del Artículo 7 del [Estatuto de Roma de la Corte Penal Internacional](#), que define como “crimen de lesa humanidad” acciones como asesinato o actos inhumanos que causen intencionalmente grandes sufrimientos, entre otras.

“La ONU y la Corte Penal Internacional tienen la autoridad de investigar crímenes contra la humanidad”, indica la carta en referencia al siniestro, perpetrado por efectivos de las Tropas Guardafronteras de Cuba.

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 10, 2022

The Honorable Linda Thomas-Greenfield
U.S. Representative to the United Nations
U.S. Mission to the United Nations
799 United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017

Dear Ambassador Thomas-Greenfield,

We write to express our profound concern regarding the Cuban regime's sinking of a boat near Bahía Honda which reportedly resulted in the deaths of at least seven Cubans, including one child. Accordingly, we respectfully request that you condemn these murders at the United Nations, and call for an international investigation into whether they constitute crimes against humanity.

Article 7 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court defines crimes against humanity as actions such as murder, torture, persecution, "imprisonment or other severe deprivation of physical liberty," or other "inhumane acts of a similar character intentionally causing great suffering, or serious injury to body or to mental or physical health" which is knowingly "committed as part of a widespread or systematic attack directed against any civilian population." We believe that the sinking of a civilian boat by a Cuban regime vessel, resulting in the deaths of vulnerable, unarmed Cuban civilians was knowing, purposeful, and part of a systematic campaign of oppression against those who dare to oppose the regime – even if that "opposition" is simply attempting to escape.

Such action at the United Nations has precedent. As you know, the United Nations Human Rights Council established the UN Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (IFFMV) in September 2019 with a one-year mandate (resolution 42/25). The IFFMV was extended another two years (resolution 45/26). Throughout those three years, the IFFMV has produced three reports documenting the Maduro dictatorship's egregious human rights abuses and numerous crimes, such as extrajudicial executions, enforced disappearances, arbitrary detentions, and torture. These reports have highlighted not only the abuses, but also the state's systematic complicity in committing them.

While Venezuela voluntarily subjected itself to the jurisdiction of the ICC long before Maduro seized power, Cuba never did so. However, the UN and the ICC both have authority to investigate crimes against humanity. Shamefully, the regime in Cuba has committed egregious human rights abuses systematically and knowingly for nearly six decades with few repercussions; the perpetrators of these crimes have not been held accountable for their atrocities at the United Nations nor the International Criminal Court. The victims of firing squads, political persecution, arbitrary imprisonment, widespread expropriations, the Tugboat Massacre, Brothers to the Rescue shutdown, reprisals following repatriations or failed refugee attempts, torture, terrorism, forced disappearances, and arbitrary killings deserve to have their cases heard and documented by the international bodies charged with safeguarding human rights.

Most recently in Cuba, in the case of the boat sinking near Bahía Honda, the regime has not been forced to account for the deaths of these Cubans whose only crime was attempting to flee their island prison. Persecuting those who attempt escape has become a reprehensible pattern of the regime, following the dozens of innocent lives lost in the deliberate and vicious Tugboat "13 de Marzo" Massacre of 1994, the executions of three men who attempted to escape by seizing a ferry in 2003, and now the regime's sinking of a boat off Bahía Honda. We believe that the knowing and systematic nature of the regime's actions in murdering innocent Cubans is well established.

It is past time that the regime in Cuba, and those who carry out its malign directives, are held accountable for the torment that they inflict on the Cuban people. When these crimes are no longer committed with impunity, perhaps those receiving these heinous orders will decline to follow them. Accordingly, within all applicable rules and regulations, we respectfully request that you unequivocally condemn these barbaric acts at every opportunity. We further request that you call for a full, fair, and expeditious investigation into these killings with particular consideration as to whether they constitute crimes against humanity, as defined in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, or other customary international rules and norms.

Thank you for your attention to this matter of utmost importance.

Sincerely,



Mario Diaz-Balart
Member of Congress



Albio Sires
Member of Congress



Maria Elvira Salazar
Member of Congress



Carlos A. Gimenez
Member of Congress



Nicole Malliotakis
Member of Congress

Carta enviada a la embajadora de Estados Unidos ante Naciones Unidas, Thomas-Greenfield

Los representantes sostienen que lo ocurrido en aguas al norte de la provincia de Artemisa no es un hecho aislado, sino que se enmarca en una serie de violaciones sistemáticas del régimen de La Habana.

“Vergonzosamente, el régimen ha cometido sistemáticamente violaciones de derechos humanos durante seis décadas, con pocas repercusiones; a los perpetradores de estos crímenes no se les ha exigido responsabilidad por las atrocidades que han cometido ni en las Naciones Unidas ni en la Corte Penal

Internacional”, precisa el texto.

El hundimiento de la lancha trajo consigo el fallecimiento de siete personas, entre ellas una menor de edad. El régimen cubano aseguró que se trató de un accidente, algo que ha sido desmentido [por los propios sobrevivientes y sus familiares](#), y culpó al gobierno de Estados Unidos del hecho por implementar políticas que estimulan la inmigración ilegal.

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