



RESOLUTION

NEW JERSEY STATE ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE

RESOLUTION OPPOSING NORMALIZING RELATIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF CUBA UNTIL CONVICTED FELON AND POLICE OFFICER MURDERER JOANNE CHESIMARD IS EXTRADITED TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

WHEREAS, the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police (NJSACOP) is dedicated to advancing and promoting the highest levels of professionalism and ethics in police services in the state of New Jersey and the United States of America; and,

WHEREAS, the NJSACOP is further dedicated to supporting and advocating for the safety and wellbeing of all law enforcement officers in the state of New Jersey and the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, we, the undersigned NEW JERSEY STATE ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE support calling on the Government of Cuba to extradite to the United States convicted felon Joanne Chesimard and all other individuals who have fled the United States to avoid prosecution or confinement for criminal offenses and who are currently living freely in Cuba; and

WHEREAS, on May 2, 1973, Joanne Chesimard and two friends were stopped in their vehicle by New Jersey State Troopers James Harper and Werner Foerster on the New Jersey Turnpike; and

WHEREAS, while being questioned, Chesimard and the driver opened fire with automatic pistols striking Trooper Werner Foerster twice in the chest and Trooper James Harper in the left shoulder; and

WHEREAS, the suspects then turned Trooper Foerster's own weapon on him firing an additional two bullets into his head execution style; and

WHEREAS, this heinous and premeditated act resulted in the tragic death of New Jersey State Trooper Werner Foerster; and

WHEREAS, Trooper Foerster left behind a wife, Rose Foerster, and family; and

WHEREAS, in 1977, after a six week trial, a jury found Chesimard guilty of first-degree murder for the slaying of Trooper Foerster, a respected New Jersey State Trooper; and

WHEREAS, as a result of this conviction Chesimard was sentenced to life in a New Jersey State prison; and

WHEREAS, after escaping prison, Chesimard fled to Cuba for political asylum; and

WHEREAS, people in the State of New Jersey were shocked and outraged to see television interviews showing Chesimard living freely in Cuba, portraying herself as the victim and denying any crimes against Trooper Foerster; now, therefore be it,

RESOLVED, that the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police, at its Business Meeting of January 8, 2015, strongly urge the President and Congress of the United States of America to delay normalizing relations with the government of Cuba until such time as convicted felon and Joanne Chesimard is extradited to the United States;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a duly authorized copy of this Resolution signed by the President and attest by the Executive Director of this Association be transported to the President of the United States, the members of the Congress of the United States of America, the Governor and State Legislature of the State of New Jersey, the Superintendent of the New Jersey State Police, members of the press and the general public.

SIGNED:


CHIEF KEVIN SAUTER
President

ATTEST:


MITCHELL C. SKLAR
Executive Director

DATED: January 8, 2015