

# Castro: From dove to jackal

At the early age of 31, Fidel Castro was already a master in deceit. This is the picture that comes out from an interview conducted by journalist and photographer Andrew St. George with Fidel Castro in 1958. From his hideout at the Sierra Maestra mountains, Castro answered in his own handwriting, and in Spanish, the questions posed to him in English by St. George. The origi-

nal document is now part of the Latin American collection at Yale University, in New Haven, Connecticut. Among his answers to the questions, Castro stated: "The people have the right to elect their government officials. Free men who cannot stand tyranny are incapable of becoming themselves dictators. To oppress another is as infamous as to live under oppression". Later, Castro added: "Our

revolution is democratic, nationalist and far from any communist tendencies. We also want to maintain the best relations with the United States".

After grabbing power by force in 1959, it took very little time for this dove to turn into the jackal we all have witnessed for the last 46 years. Cuban historian Rafael Rojas, was quoted by the Miami Herald with stating, "This

specific answer is truly revealing of the cynicism with which Castro has played with ideologies and the role of the liberal U.S. press". And to this we must add, the very same press that, together with the likes of Oliver Stone, continue portraying a brutal dictator and depraved terrorist as an idealist Third World David challenging an abusive American Goliath.

## Cuba: History of an economic debacle

	1959	2004	1959	2004
Population, MM inhabitants	6	12	No. busses/inhabitants	1/2000 1/35000
Income per capita, \$/per year	1200	70	No. Television sets/1000	66 15
Telephones per 100 inhabitants	15	3,5	No. Television Stations	7(2 in color) 2
Electrical consumption/watts	450	75	No. Physicians/ inhabitant	1/950 1/750
Daily caloric consumption	2800	1100	No. Dentists/inhabitant	1/2100 1/1850
Annual Meat consumption, lbs.	76	12	Heads of Cattle, MM	6 1,8
Annual Egg consumption	47	13	Inflation, % annual	1,8 25
Annual chicken consumption, lbs.	12	5	No. Newspapers	18(daily) 2 (not daily)
No. Automobiles/ 1000 inhabitants	38	10	No. Tourists per year	750,000 1,200,000
No. Urban busses/ inhabitant	1/300	1/25000	Sugar harvest/ MM tons	7 1,8

Fuentes: ONU, FAO, UNESCO

## CASTRO'S FRIENDS IN THE U.S. CONGRESS

These are the names of the Democrat members of Congress that have asked President Bush to turn over Luis Posada Carriles to Venezuela and have secured their place in the Hall of Hypocrisy and Shame. They are the very same members that have requested the abolishment of the embargo on the Cuban tyrant and are now also allies of Venezuela. Could this be a coincidence?

Dennis J. Kucinich, Raúl M. Grijalva, José E. Serrano, Barbara Lee, Cynthia McKinney, Maurice Hinchey, John Olver, Bobby L. Rush, James P. McGovern, Donald M. Payne, Sam Farr, Lane Evans, Bennie G. Thompson, Carolyn B. Maloney, Ed Pastor, Tammy Baldwin, Sheila Jackson Lee, Lynn Woolsey and Maxine Waters.

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**Nationalist Democratic Party of Cuba**

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## Counting Castro's Victims

By MARY ANASTASIA O'GRADY  
The Wall Street Journal (Excerpts)

This weekend marks the 47th anniversary of the triumph of the "26th of July Movement," which many Cubans expected would return their country to a constitutional government. Fidel Castro had other ideas of course, and within weeks he hijacked the victory, converting the country into one of the most repressive states in modern history.

Waiting for Fidel to die has become a way of life in Cuba in the past decade. But Cuban reconciliation won't come easy. One painful step in the process will require facing the truth of all that has gone on in the name of social justice. As the report cited

above shows, it is bound to be a gruesome tale.

The Cuba Archive project (www.cubaarchive.org) has already begun the heavy lifting by attempting to document the loss of life attributable to revolutionary zealotry. The project, based in Chatham, N.J., covers the period from May 1952 — when the constitutional government fell to Gen. Fulgencio Batista — to the present. It has so far verified the names of 9,240 victims of the Castro regime and the circumstances of their deaths. Archive researchers meticulously insist on confirming stories of

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## Marta Beatriz Roque: Champion of Liberty

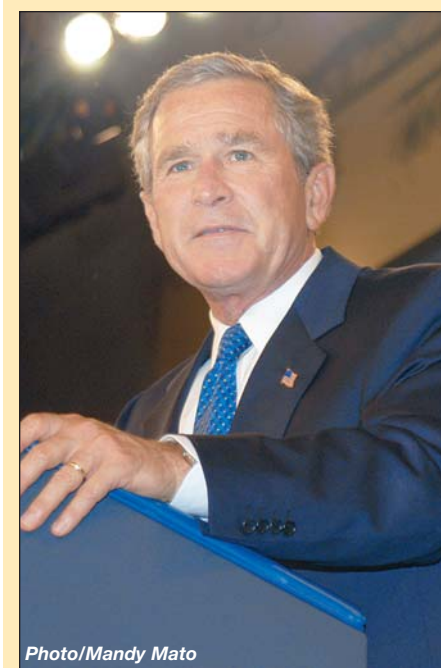
The Board of Directors of the Nationalist Democratic Party of Cuba voted unanimously in its January 18th, 2006 meeting to bestow upon Cuban opposition leader Martha Beatriz Roque Cabello the award of Champion of Liberty for the year 2006, in a ceremony that will take place Saturday, April 29, of 2006. This award is granted every year to personalities that promote respect for freedom, democracy and human rights all over the world. The award encompasses a plaque stating the merits of the honoree and a financial contribution of \$10,000 (ten thousand dollars) to support the work of the recipient and last year was given to Dr. Oscar Elías Biscet, President of the Lawton Foundation for Human Rights.



Marta Beatriz-Roque

Ms. Roque is head of the Assembly to

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Photo/Mandy Mato

## President Bush: Do not disappoint us

An open letter

Honorable George W. Bush  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Bush:

We are writing to you as friends. A friendship proven with our enthusiastic and critical support of your candidacy during the vehemently contested 2000 election that placed you in the White House and the less contested but also important election of 2004. It will be unwise, however, to confuse support with blind loyalty. Our loyalty, like yours Mr. President, is to freedom and democracy for all people, including of course the people of Cuba.

We are therefore supportive of your gallant efforts to bring democracy and freedom to the people of Iraq. There are, however, two questions that baffle our minds. What makes the Iraqi people more worthy

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## "Your administration has repatriated over 7,740 Cubans"

Letter from Senator Bob Menéndez to President Bush.

The Honorable George W. Bush  
President of the United States  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to express my disagreement with your administration's treatment of Cuban nationals attempting to flee the Castro regime. During your 2000 campaign, you criticized the "wet foot, dry foot" policy which forces Cubans to return to a country run by a brutal dictator determined to carry out revenge on those who try to leave. Yet, over the past five years, your administration has repatriated over 7,740 Cuban nationals. You have had the power to change US policy on repatriating Cubans during those five years, and have not done so. I urge you to use

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**WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT**

If you share our goals of a free and democratic Cuba, write check or money order to PND-CUBA and send it to the above address.

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official murder from two independent sources.

Cuba Archive President Maria Werlau says the total number of victims could be higher by a factor of 10. Project Vice President Armando Lago, a Harvard-trained economist, has spent years studying the cost of the revolution and he estimates that almost 78,000 innocents may have died trying to flee the dictatorship. Another 5,300 are known to have lost their lives fighting communism in the Escambray Mountains (mostly peasant farmers and their children) and at the Bay of Pigs. An estimated 14,000 Cubans were killed in Fidel's revolutionary adventures abroad, most notably his dispatch of 50,000 soldiers to Angola in the 1980s to help the Soviet-backed

**"On May 27, [1966,] 166 Cubans -- civilians and members of the military -- were executed and submitted to medical procedures of blood extraction of an average of seven pints per person. This blood is sold to Communist Vietnam at a rate of \$50 per pint with the dual purpose of obtaining hard currency and contributing to the Vietcong Communist aggression.**

**"A pint of blood is equivalent to half a liter. Extracting this amount of blood from a person sentenced to death produces cerebral anemia and a state of unconsciousness and paralysis. Once the blood is extracted, the person is taken by two militiamen on a stretcher to the location where the execution takes place."**

**— InterAmerican Human Rights Commission, April 7, 1967**

regime fight off the Unita insurgency.

Cuba Archive finds that some 5,600 Cubans have died in front of firing squads and another 1,200 in "extrajudicial assassinations." Che Guevara was a gleeful executioner at the infamous La Cabaña Fortress in 1959 where, under his orders, at least 151 Cubans were lined up and shot. Children have not been spared. Of the 94 minors whose deaths have been documented by

Cuba Archive, 22 died by firing squad and 32 in extrajudicial assassinations.

The revolution boasts of its gender equality, and that's certainly true for its victims. Women have not fared much better than men. In 1961, 25-year-old Lydia Pérez López was eight months pregnant when a prison guard kicked her in the stomach. She

lost her baby and, without medical attention, bled to death. A 70-year-old woman named Edmunda Serrat Barrios was beaten to death in 1981 in a Cuban jail. Cuba Archive has documented 219 female deaths including 11 firing squad executions and 20 extrajudicial assassinations. The only riddle left is how so-called "human rights" advocates like Argentine President Nestor Kirchner still embrace the Castro regime.

**CUBAN LEGISLATORS OPPOSE MIGRATION ACCORD**

The Honorable Michel Chertoff, Secretary U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
3891 Nebraska Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20528-0001

Dear Secretary Chertoff:

On September 17, 2003, while reiterating our profound opposition to the "Clinton Castro Migration Accord" (CCMA) of May 1995, we wrote to then Assistant Secretary of State Roger Noriega and Ambassador Otto Reich, with a series of recommendations to address the inconsistencies and arbitrariness of the "CCMA."

At that time, we were informed that the "CCMA" was under review and that our recommendations were being considered. Since we sent our letters, we have witnessed a record number of human trafficking cases from Cuba, a dramatic increase of Cuban nationals attempting to flee the island, an extraordinary amount of refugees repatriated without regard for the merits of their asylum petitions, and, basically, an overall process that constitutes an embarrassment to the United States.

The most recent repatriation of 15 Cuban refugees, who did reach U.S. territory by touching the Seven Mile Bridge in the Florida Keys, is simply the most recent example of an arbitrary process that uses any excuse to repatriate as many Cuban nationals as possible without due process.

We hereby reiterate our strong opposition to the immoral "CCMA" and urge that existing policy be reviewed forthwith, and hereby request a meeting with you as soon as possible.

Sincerely,  
Lincoln Diaz-Balart Ileana Ros-Lehtinen Mario-Diaz-Balart



**Venezuela's well bribed Army**

By José Cadenas  
La Nueva Cuba

The Venezuelan government is on a weapons buying spree. Over the past year Venezuela has committed itself to buy 100,000 AK-103 and AK-104 automatic rifles, plus licenses to produce about 300,000 more, as well as 44 helicopters, and even MiG-29 fighters from Russia. In addition, Venezuela is buying four coastal patrol boats, some transport aircraft, and possibly even a couple of frigates from Spain, as well as about two dozen light tactical support aircraft from Brazil. The total bill will likely exceed \$2 billion.

While there is much trepidation about these purchases, by the openly anti-American Venezuelan government, the extent to which they are likely to add to further instability in Latin America is difficult to assess. Venezuelan president Chavez harbors suspicions about the loyalty of Venezuela's armed forces. As a result, in addition to reshuffling senior commanders, he has been raising pay and benefits for the troops, to keep them happy, so some of the arms purchases should be seen in the same light; providing new toys for the boys. As addition insurance against a coup, Chavez is creating a "Bolivarian Militia" that will ultimately number some two million, a force which Venezuela is unable to equip.

Moreover, since for decades the Venezuelan Armed Forces have relied on US and NATO standard equipment, some of the purchases are going to be very destabilizing.

For example, Venezuela infantrymen and marines have been using the NATO standard FN 7.62mm FAL rifle for many years. In 2000 the Armed Forces decided to adopt the NATO standard FN 5.62mm FNC rifle, and several battalions have already been equipped with it. So introducing the AK-103/-104 (the current model of the famed AK-47), is going to be very disruptive.

And then there's the question of corruption. Shortly after the deal to buy the AKs was announced in December of '04, press reports began pointing out that the price was considerably higher than the international "market price" for the weapons. While the government charged that the press was biased and working for Venezuela's enemies, the evidence was compelling that an enormous amount of money had disappeared.

This is not to say that Chavez will not continue support for "revolutionary" movements in other countries. Venezuela is believed to be supporting the FARC and FNL in Colombia, and perhaps other groups in other countries. It is, however, not likely that Chavez will be overly generous, as his money will probably be diverted to support his new "ally," Evo Morales. Morales, recently elected president of Bolivia, has an economic program that will have disastrous consequences for his country without a steady infusion of foreign subsidies. Chavez will either be forced to provide this cash, or be seen to have abandoned a fellow "reformer."

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this power to take immediate action.

Your administration recently repatriated 15 Cuban refugees, who, under current law, did reach US territory when they touched the Seven Mile Bridge in the Florida Keys. This act only demonstrates another example of your administration's arbitrary and dangerous decision-making regarding the repatriation of Cuban nationals...Castro's human rights record has been repeatedly condemned by Amnesty International, Freedom House, and other

human rights groups. Cuban refugees forced to return to Cuba would surely face political repression and even possible jail time.

The United States has long been a refuge for those from around the world fleeing persecution to obtain freedom. We must ensure that our current policy reflects this proud tradition. I urge you to review these recommendations and look forward to your prompt response.  
Sincerely,  
Robert Menendez  
Member of Congress

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Promote Civil Society in Cuba, a coalition of more than 360 independent groups within the island, which objectives are to re-establish and strengthen civil society for the instauration of a democratic system in Cuba. She served three and one half years in prison for her participation in the document "The Homeland Belongs to All", an alternative Castro's Communist Party "manifesto". She was imprisoned again in March 2003 and released under an extra penal license for medical reasons after serving one year.

On May 20th 2005, the Assembly called a General Meeting of all its members as well as all independent civil society groups to set forth the joint work that needs to be undertaken in order to achieve the goal of a

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democratic Cuba. On October 10th, 2005, she joined her colleagues in the Assembly René Gómez Manzano and Félix Bonne Caracés, as well as Elsa Morejón of the Lawton Foundation for Human Rights and Vladimiro Roca of the All Together Movement in a declaration calling for a united front to work for freedom and democracy in Cuba.

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of freedom than the Cuban people? Secondly, how can your administration promote freedom thousands of miles away and turn a blind eye to the almost half a century of oppression of a neighboring people just ninety miles away? Would you please clarify for us your standards in making that distinction. However disappointing, we rather hear the truth than the litany of unfulfilled promises of 47 years.

This does not mean that we will rush to join the ranks of the party whose president traded the welfare and happiness of a little boy for a despicable accommodation with a tyrant for the benefit of the merchants of misery in this country. We, on the other side, have choices. In future elections we might

choose to stay home and refuse to participate in a process to elect officials that, once elected, renege on their promises and refuse to recognize our rights to rebel against tyranny and to seek refuge in this country from torture and persecution in ours.

Your own Secretary of State, with your blessing no doubt, has stated that: "For Cuba it is time". As a man of God and a man of character, deliver on this promise Mr. President. Long after you and I have departed from this life, the people of Cuba will pronounce your name in awe and gratitude. We are counting on your support. Do not disappoint us.  
Respectfully yours,  
Alfredo M. Cepero  
Secretary General PNDC.



Robert Menendez