

# *Chilean Parliamentarians Call for Normal Ties Between U.S. and Cuba*

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Santiago de Chile, September 15 (RHC) -- Chilean parliament members have called for the normalization of relations between the United States and Cuba, as well as the release of the three anti-terrorist fighters still imprisoned in U.S. jails.

Eleven members of the Committee for Friendship with Cuba of the Chilean Parliament signed a letter addressed to President Barack Obama, saying it was past time for better relations with the Caribbean island.

The letter says that the Inter-Parliamentary Group composed of legislators from different parties want to request the restoration of relations between the United States and Cuba as two sovereign and independent countries.

The text of the letter reads: "When most countries of the world have repeatedly condemned the blockade and the majority of U.S. citizens support a change in policy towards Cuba, we join this international outcry for the lifting of the U.S. economic blockade against Cuba and the establishment of normal diplomatic and

trade relations.”

Deputy Hugo Gutierrez, president of the Human Rights Commission of the House, was appointed to deliver the letter to the U.S. Embassy in Santiago de Chile.

The Chilean deputies also referred to the case of the five Cuban anti-terrorist fighters unjustly convicted on trumped up charges, of whom three remain in American jails.

While calling for their immediate release and safe return to Cuba, the Chilean lawmakers said: “In the eyes of the world, the injustice committed against the Five is evident,” also stressing the political bias that surrounded their case since their arrest in 1998.

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