

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ABOUT ALAN GROSS

"It is time for Gross to be released. Even if just for humanitarian reasons, I believe it is time for Gross to be released... [W]e believe the Cuban government should make the right decision and allow Alan to be reunited with his family."

President Barack Obama, El Nuevo Herald, 8/9/2011

"I think [Mr. Gross] should be released because he is innocent of any serious crime. My hope is that he also might be given his freedom soon."

Former President Jimmy Carter, Reuters, 3/30/2011

"He's been unjustly jailed for far too long. We call on the Government of Cuba to release him, and unconditionally allow him to leave Cuba and return to his family, to bring an end to their long ordeal."

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, Voice of America, 3/4/2011

"Ultimately, the blame for the sorry episode lies with the Cuban government, whose hermetic fear of freedom is morally indefensible. Yet the Obama administration can also be faulted for allowing Cuba policy to drift and for failing to monitor USAID programs whose execution, as Mr. Gross's case illustrated, has been artless. At this point, the administration must make clear that no progress in relations will be made until Mr. Gross - a development worker, not a spy - is released unconditionally."

The Washington Post Editorial, 8/12/2011

"Now that Gross has exhausted his legal options, the Obama administration should make clear that the relaxation of travel restrictions will be reversed and any further concessions imperiled if he is not immediately and unconditionally freed."

"Gross Injustice," Jerusalem Post Editorial, 8/9/2011

"Mr. Gross's long incarceration to date, his history of ill health, the ill health of close family members, the excessively broad application of Cuba's national security law under which he was convicted, and the serious lack of basic due process leading up to and at his trial, the AAJLJ states that Alan Gross should be released immediately."

American Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists, 8/8/2011

"The Editorial Board has supported increased people-to-people contacts and family visits. We still do. But the administration's rhetorical demands for [Alan Gross'] release have gone nowhere, and likely won't unless the administration makes an appropriate response."

"Unjust Verdict, Unjust Regime," Miami Herald Editorial, 8/7/2011

"This is a deplorable human rights violation. It has been well documented that Mr. Gross is simply a humanitarian who was seeking to help the Jewish community in Cuba access the Internet."

Senator Marco Rubio, The Washington Post, 8/7/2011

"Alan Gross went to Cuba on a mission to help the Cuban people connect to the world, and he and his family have paid a terrible price for his humanitarian efforts. Alan Gross should be released immediately and without condition and the Obama administration should make it clear to the Castro regime that the unlawful imprisonment of U.S. Citizens will not be tolerated."

***Senator Robert Menendez, Foreign Relations Western Hemisphere Subcommittee Chair,
8/5/2011***

“It was wrong of the Cuban regime to arrest Alan Gross, it was wrong to imprison him and it was wrong to reject his appeal. Alan Gross was in Cuba to help bring the Internet to the small Jewish community - not a crime, except in a dictatorship like Cuba. Rejecting his appeal was simply unjustified and inhumane, and I call upon the Cuban regime to release Alan Gross without delay.”

Rep. Eliot L. Engel, House Foreign Affairs Committee Ranking Democrat, 8/5/2011

“We call on the Cuban Government to release Mr. Gross immediately on humanitarian grounds and as a gesture of good will to the American people. We further urge international leaders who maintain diplomatic relations with Cuba to encourage President Raúl Castro to release him.”

Abraham H. Foxman, Anti-Defamation League National Director, 8/5/2011

“We now reiterate our request to the president [Castro] and urge him to grant clemency on humanitarian grounds as quickly as possible and allow Mr. Gross to be reunited with his family, especially his daughter and mother, who are both battling cancer.”

Richard Stone, Conference of Presidents Chairman, 8/5/2011

“Sadly, Mr. Gross is being used as a pawn by the Castro dictatorship. The outcome in this case has been carefully calibrated by the ruling clique to teach a stern lesson to others who dare circumvent the Castro censors.”

Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairwoman, 7/22/2011

“The arrest and imprisonment of Mr. Gross is viewed with great consternation by the government of the United States, including both Democrat and Republican Members of the United States Congress, whether liberal or conservative. It has caused many to doubt your government’s expressed desire to improve relations with the United States. We cannot assist in that regard while Mr. Gross is detained in a Cuban prison. We urge you in the strongest possible terms to immediately and unconditionally release Mr. Gross and allow him to return to his family in the United States.”

Letter signed by 40 Members of the U.S. Congress to Jorge Bolaños, Chief of Mission, Cuban Interest Section, 3/23/2011

“I would urge the Cuban government to immediately consider giving Mr. Gross an expedited humanitarian release, considering his own serious health issues and those of his immediate family. He has suffered enough and should come home now.”

Senator John Kerry, Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman, 3/13/2011

“Releasing Mr. Gross to his wife and family would be a positive humanitarian gesture on the part of the Cuban government. It could only help to foster improved relations between the United States and Cuba.”

Rev. Jesse Jackson, Open Letter to Cuban President Raúl Castro, 3/1/2011

“I believe that the Cubans need to free Alan Gross. It’s very simple. They should do it. He’s been in prison 14 months. His family is not well. Gross’ family, the charges - you know, we all have our views - I think are dubious. Nonetheless, there’s a legal process going on, but for humanitarian reasons, I believe this man should be released.”

Governor Bill Richardson, Speech at The Brookings Institution, 2/15/2011

“We have made it very clear to the Cuban government that the continued detention of Alan Gross is a major impediment to advancing the dialogue between our two countries.”

P.J. Crowley, State Department Briefing, 12/3/2010