

113TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1687

To provide for the imposition of sanctions with respect to foreign persons responsible for or complicit in ordering, controlling, or otherwise directing, the commission of serious human rights abuses against citizens of ALBA countries, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 23, 2013

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN (for herself and Mr. SIRES) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services, Ways and Means, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To provide for the imposition of sanctions with respect to foreign persons responsible for or complicit in ordering, controlling, or otherwise directing, the commission of serious human rights abuses against citizens of ALBA countries, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Countering ALBA Act  
5 of 2013”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

3 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-  
4 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-  
5 mittees” means—

6 (A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of  
7 the House of Representatives; and

8 (B) the Committee on Foreign Relations of  
9 the Senate.

10 (2) ALBA COUNTRIES.—The term “ALBA  
11 countries” means Venezuela, Nicaragua, Bolivia, and  
12 Ecuador.

13 (3) ALBA GOVERNMENTS.—The term “ALBA  
14 Governments” means the Governments of Venezuela,  
15 Nicaragua, Bolivia, and Ecuador.

16 (4) HUMAN RIGHTS.—The term “human  
17 rights” has the meaning given such term in the  
18 Inter-American Democratic Charter.

19 (5) SENSITIVE TECHNOLOGY.—

20 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “sensitive  
21 technology” means hardware, software, tele-  
22 communications equipment, or any other tech-  
23 nology that the President determines is to be  
24 used specifically to—

25 (i) restrict the free flow of unbiased  
26 information; or

1 (ii) disrupt, monitor, or otherwise re-  
2 strict freedom of speech.

3 (B) EXCEPTION.—The term “sensitive  
4 technology” does not include information or in-  
5 formational materials the exportation of which  
6 the President does not have the authority to  
7 regulate.

8 **SEC. 3. FINDINGS.**

9 Congress finds the following:

10 (1) The 2004 Venezuelan Law on Social Re-  
11 sponsibility of Radio and Television gives the gov-  
12 ernment the authority to control radio and television  
13 content.

14 (2) According to the Department of State’s an-  
15 nual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices  
16 for 2012 for Venezuela, “The following human  
17 rights problems were reported by nongovernmental  
18 organizations (NGOs), the media, and in some cases  
19 the government itself: unlawful killings, including  
20 summary killings by rogue police elements; torture  
21 and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment;  
22 inadequate juvenile detention centers; arbitrary ar-  
23 rests and detentions; corruption and impunity in po-  
24 lice forces; political prisoners; interference with pri-  
25 vacy rights; corruption at all levels of government;

1 threats against domestic NGOs; violence against  
2 women; anti-Semitism in the official media; traf-  
3 ficking in persons; violence based on sexual orienta-  
4 tion and gender identity; and restrictions on work-  
5 ers' right of association.”.

6 (3) In December 2010, the Venezuelan Con-  
7 gress passed the Law on Political Sovereignty and  
8 National Self-Determination, which threatens sanc-  
9 tions against any “political organization” that re-  
10 ceives foreign funding or hosts foreign visitors who  
11 criticize the government.

12 (4) According to Freedom House's Freedom in  
13 the World Report of 2012 on Venezuela,  
14 “Politicization of the judicial branch has increased  
15 under Chávez, and high courts generally do not rule  
16 against the government.”.

17 (5) According to the Department of State's  
18 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for  
19 2012 for Venezuela, “The principal human rights  
20 abuses reported during the year included corruption,  
21 inefficiency, and politicization in the judicial system;  
22 government actions to impede freedom of expression;  
23 and harsh and life-threatening prison conditions.  
24 The government harassed and intimidated privately  
25 owned television stations, other media outlets, and

1 journalists throughout the year, using threats, fines,  
2 property seizures, targeted regulations, and criminal  
3 investigations and prosecutions. The government did  
4 not respect judicial independence or permit judges to  
5 act according to the law without fear of retaliation.  
6 The government used the judiciary to intimidate and  
7 selectively prosecute political, union, business, and  
8 civil society leaders who were critical of government  
9 policies or actions. Failure to provide for due process  
10 rights, physical safety, and humane conditions for  
11 inmates contributed to widespread violence, riots, in-  
12 juries, and deaths in prisons.”.

13 (6) According to Freedom House’s Freedom in  
14 the World Report of 2012 on Nicaragua, “The press  
15 has faced increased political and judicial harassment  
16 since 2007, as the Ortega administration engages in  
17 systematic efforts to obstruct and discredit media  
18 critics. Journalists have received death threats, and  
19 some have been killed in recent years, with a number  
20 of attacks attributed to FSLN sympathizers.”.

21 (7) According to Freedom House’s Freedom in  
22 the World Report of 2012 on Nicaragua,  
23 “Nicaragua’s political rights rating declined from 4  
24 to 5 due to shortcomings regarding the constitu-  
25 tionality of Daniel Ortega’s presidential candidacy,

1 reported irregularities, and the absence of trans-  
2 parency throughout the electoral process, and the  
3 Supreme electoral Tribunal’s apparent lack of neu-  
4 trality.”.

5 (8) According to the Department of State’s an-  
6 nual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices  
7 for 2012 for Nicaragua, “The principal human  
8 rights abuses were restrictions on citizens’ right to  
9 vote, including significantly biased policies to pro-  
10 mote single party dominance, and withholding of ac-  
11 creditation from election-monitoring nongovern-  
12 mental organizations (NGOs); widespread corrup-  
13 tion, including in the police, CSE, Supreme Court of  
14 Justice (CSJ), and other government organs; and  
15 societal violence, particularly against women and les-  
16 bian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) per-  
17 sons. Additional significant human rights abuses in-  
18 cluded police abuse of suspects during arrest and de-  
19 tention; harsh and life-threatening prison conditions;  
20 arbitrary and lengthy pretrial detention; erosion of  
21 freedom of speech and press, including government  
22 intimidation and harassment of journalists and inde-  
23 pendent media; government harassment and intimi-  
24 dation of NGOs; trafficking in persons; discrimina-  
25 tion against ethnic minorities and indigenous per-

1        sons and communities; societal discrimination  
2        against persons with disabilities; discrimination  
3        against persons with HIV/AIDS; and violations of  
4        trade union rights.”.

5            (9) According to Freedom House’s Freedom in  
6        the World Report of 2012 on Ecuador, “In Feb-  
7        ruary 2011, Guayaquil’s leading newspaper, El  
8        Universo, published an opinion column suggesting  
9        that Correa could be held accountable in the future  
10       for the use of lethal force during the rescue oper-  
11       ation. In response, Correa lodged a lawsuit against  
12       the author and the owners of the newspaper. All  
13       four defendants were found guilty of aggravated def-  
14       amation and sentenced in July to three-year prison  
15       sentences and an unprecedented fine of \$40 million.  
16       International human rights and press freedom orga-  
17       nizations, along with the Organization of American  
18       States (OAS) and the United Nations, denounced  
19       the court decision as a clear effort to intimidate the  
20       press.”.

21            (10) Freedom House gave Ecuador a “down-  
22       ward trend arrow” in 2012 due to “the govern-  
23       ment’s intensified campaign against opposition lead-  
24       ers and intimidation of journalists, its excessive use  
25       of public resources to influence a national ref-

1 erendum, and the unconstitutional restructuring of  
2 the judiciary.”.

3 (11) According to the Department of State’s  
4 annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices  
5 for 2012 for Ecuador, “The main human rights  
6 abuses were the use of excessive force by public se-  
7 curity forces, restrictions on freedom of speech,  
8 press, and association; and corruption by officials.  
9 President Correa and his administration continued  
10 verbal and legal attacks against the media and used  
11 legal mechanisms such as libel laws and administra-  
12 tive regulations to suppress freedom of the press.  
13 Corruption was widespread, and questions continued  
14 regarding transparency within the judicial sector, de-  
15 spite attempts at procedural reform. The following  
16 human rights problems continued: isolated unlawful  
17 killings, poor prison conditions, arbitrary arrest and  
18 detention, abuses by security forces, a high number  
19 of pretrial detainees, and delays and denial of due  
20 process within the judicial system. Societal problems  
21 continued, including physical aggression against  
22 journalists; violence against women; discrimination  
23 against women, indigenous persons, Afro-Ecu-  
24 dorians, and persons based on their sexual orienta-



1       tion; trafficking in persons and exploitation of mi-  
2       nors; and child labor.”.

3           (12) According to the Department of State’s  
4       annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices  
5       for 2012 for Bolivia, “The most serious human  
6       rights problems included arbitrary arrest or deten-  
7       tion, denial of a fair and timely public trial, and vio-  
8       lence against women. Additional human rights prob-  
9       lems included harsh prison conditions, restrictions  
10      on freedom of speech and press, official corruption  
11      in the judiciary and elsewhere, lack of government  
12      transparency, trafficking in persons, and vigilante  
13      justice. Societal discrimination continued against  
14      women; members of racial and ethnic minority  
15      groups; indigenous persons; individuals with disabil-  
16      ities; lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT)  
17      persons; and those with HIV/AIDS.”.

18           (13) According to Freedom House’s Freedom in  
19      the World Report of 2012 on Bolivia, “Corruption  
20      remains a major problem in Bolivia, affecting a  
21      range of government entities and economic sectors,  
22      including extractive industries.”.

23           (14) According to Freedom House’s Freedom in  
24      the World Report of 2012 on Bolivia, “In July  
25      2011, Morales signed a new telecommunications law

1 requiring that state-run media control 33 percent of  
2 all broadcast licenses. Press freedom advocates wel-  
3 comed the idea of expanding media access to new  
4 groups, but expressed fears that local and indige-  
5 nous outlets would lack the financial resources to op-  
6 erate independently and could fall under government  
7 control. The law also allows the government to ac-  
8 cess any private communication, including e-mail  
9 and telephone calls, for reasons of ‘national security’  
10 or any other emergency.”.

11 (15) Mr. Jacob Ostreicher, who has been de-  
12 tained in the notorious Palmasola prison in Santa  
13 Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, since June 4, 2011, is  
14 one of the United States citizens who currently is  
15 enduring multiple, egregious, and continuous viola-  
16 tions of his fundamental due process and human  
17 rights under both local and international law.

18 **SEC. 4. ACTIONS AT THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN**  
19 **STATES.**

20 The Secretary of State shall direct the United States  
21 Permanent Representative to the Organization of Amer-  
22 ican States to use the voice, vote, and influence of the  
23 United States at the Organization of American States to  
24 defend, protect, and strengthen the independent Inter-  
25 American Commission on Human Rights to advance the

1 protection of human rights throughout the Western Hemi-  
2 sphere.

3 **SEC. 5. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS ON CERTAIN PERSONS**  
4 **WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR OR COMPLICIT**  
5 **IN HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES COMMITTED**  
6 **AGAINST CITIZENS OF ALBA COUNTRIES OR**  
7 **THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS AFTER FEBRUARY**  
8 **2, 1999.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall impose sanc-  
10 tions described in subsection (c) with respect to each per-  
11 son on the list required by subsection (b).

12 (b) LIST OF PERSONS WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR  
13 OR COMPLICIT IN CERTAIN HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after  
15 the date of the enactment of this Act, the President  
16 shall transmit to the appropriate congressional com-  
17 mittees a list of persons who are officials of ALBA  
18 Governments or persons acting on behalf of ALBA  
19 Governments, who the President determines, based  
20 on credible evidence, are responsible for or complicit  
21 in, or responsible for ordering, controlling, or other-  
22 wise directing, the commission of serious human  
23 rights abuses against citizens of ALBA countries or  
24 their family members on or after February 2, 1999.

1           (2) UPDATES OF LIST.—The President shall  
2           transmit to the appropriate congressional commit-  
3           tees an updated list under paragraph (1)—

4                   (A) not later than 180 days after the date  
5                   of the enactment of this Act; and

6                   (B) as new information becomes available.

7           (3) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The list required  
8           under paragraph (1) shall be made available to the  
9           public and posted on the Web sites of the Depart-  
10          ment of the Treasury and the Department of State.

11          (4) CONSIDERATION OF DATA FROM OTHER  
12          COUNTRIES AND NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZA-  
13          TIONS.—In preparing the list required under para-  
14          graph (1), the President may consider credible data  
15          already obtained by other countries and nongovern-  
16          mental organizations, including organizations in  
17          ALBA countries, that monitor the human rights  
18          abuses of ALBA Governments.

19          (c) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—The sanctions de-  
20          scribed in this subsection are ineligibility for a visa to  
21          enter the United States and sanctions pursuant to the  
22          International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50  
23          U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), including blocking of property and  
24          restrictions or prohibitions on financial transactions and  
25          the exportation and importation of property, subject to

1 such regulations as the President may prescribe, including  
2 regulatory exceptions to permit the United States to com-  
3 ply with the Agreement between the United Nations and  
4 the United States of America regarding the Headquarters  
5 of the United Nations, signed June 26, 1947, and entered  
6 into force November 21, 1947, and other applicable inter-  
7 national obligations.

8 (d) TERMINATION OF SANCTIONS.—The provisions of  
9 this section shall terminate on the date on which the Presi-  
10 dent determines and certifies to the appropriate congres-  
11 sional committees that the ALBA Governments have—

12 (1) unconditionally released all political pris-  
13 oners;

14 (2) ceased violence, unlawful detention, torture,  
15 and abuse of its citizens;

16 (3) conducted a transparent investigation into  
17 the killings, arrests, and abuse of peaceful political  
18 activists and prosecuted the individuals responsible  
19 for such killings, arrests, and abuse; and

20 (4) made public commitments to, and is making  
21 demonstrable progress toward—

22 (A) establishing an independent judiciary;

23 and

1 (B) respecting the human rights and basic  
2 freedoms recognized in the Universal Declara-  
3 tion of Human Rights.

4 **SEC. 6. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE**  
5 **TRANSFER OF GOODS OR TECHNOLOGIES TO**  
6 **ALBA COUNTRIES THAT ARE LIKELY TO BE**  
7 **USED TO COMMIT HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall impose sanc-  
9 tions described in section 5(c) with respect to each person  
10 on the list required under subsection (b) of this section.

11 (b) LIST.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after  
13 the date of the enactment of this Act, the President  
14 shall transmit to the appropriate congressional com-  
15 mittees a list of persons who the President deter-  
16 mines have knowingly engaged in an activity de-  
17 scribed in paragraph (2) on or after such date of en-  
18 actment.

19 (2) ACTIVITY DESCRIBED.—

20 (A) IN GENERAL.—A person engages in an  
21 activity described in this paragraph if the per-  
22 son—

23 (i) transfers, or facilitates the transfer  
24 of, goods or technologies described in sub-  
25 paragraph (C) to ALBA countries, any en-

1           tity organized under the laws of ALBA  
2           countries, or any national of ALBA coun-  
3           tries, for use in or with respect to ALBA  
4           countries; or

5           (ii) provides services (including serv-  
6           ices relating to hardware, software, and  
7           specialized information, and professional  
8           consulting, engineering, and support serv-  
9           ices) with respect to goods or technologies  
10          described in subparagraph (C) after such  
11          goods or technologies are transferred to  
12          ALBA countries.

13          (B) APPLICABILITY TO CONTRACTS AND  
14          OTHER AGREEMENTS.—A person engages in an  
15          activity described in subparagraph (A) without  
16          regard to whether the activity is carried out  
17          pursuant to a contract or other agreement en-  
18          tered into before, on, or after the date of the  
19          enactment of this Act.

20          (C) GOODS OR TECHNOLOGIES DE-  
21          SCRIBED.—Goods or technologies described in  
22          this subparagraph are goods or technologies  
23          that the President determines are likely to be  
24          used by ALBA Governments or any of the  
25          agencies or instrumentalities of ALBA Govern-

1           ments (or by any other person on behalf of  
2           ALBA Governments or any of such agencies or  
3           instrumentalities) to commit serious human  
4           rights abuses against the people of ALBA coun-  
5           tries, including—

6                   (i) firearms or ammunition (as such  
7                   terms are defined in section 921 of title  
8                   18, United States Code), rubber bullets,  
9                   police batons, pepper or chemical sprays,  
10                  stun grenades, electroshock weapons, tear  
11                  gas, water cannons, or surveillance tech-  
12                  nology; or

13                  (ii) sensitive technology.

14           (3) SPECIAL RULE TO ALLOW FOR TERMI-  
15           NATION OF SANCTIONABLE ACTIVITY.—The Presi-  
16           dent shall not be required to include a person on the  
17           list required under paragraph (1) if the President  
18           certifies in writing to the appropriate congressional  
19           committees that—

20                   (A) the person is no longer engaging in, or  
21                   has taken significant verifiable steps toward  
22                   stopping, the activity described in paragraph  
23                   (2) for which the President would otherwise  
24                   have included the person on the list; and



1           (B) the President has received reliable as-  
2           surances that such person will not knowingly  
3           engage in any activity described in such para-  
4           graph (2) in the future.

5           (4) UPDATES OF LIST.—The President shall  
6           transmit to the appropriate congressional commit-  
7           tees an updated list under paragraph (1)—

8                   (A) not later than 180 days after the date  
9                   of the enactment of this Act; and

10                   (B) as new information becomes available.

11           (5) FORM OF LIST; PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—

12                   (A) FORM.—The list required under para-  
13                   graph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified  
14                   form but may contain a classified annex.

15                   (B) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The unclassi-  
16                   fied portion of the list required under para-  
17                   graph (1) shall be made available to the public  
18                   and posted on the Web sites of the Department  
19                   of the Treasury and the Department of State.

1 **SEC. 7. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO PER-**  
2 **SONS WHO ENGAGE IN CENSORSHIP OR**  
3 **OTHER RELATED ACTIVITIES AGAINST CITI-**  
4 **ZENS OF ALBA COUNTRIES.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall impose sanc-  
6 tions described in section 5(c) with respect to each person  
7 on the list required under subsection (b) of this section.

8 (b) LIST OF PERSONS WHO ENGAGE IN CENSOR-  
9 SHIP.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after  
11 the date of the enactment of this Act, the President  
12 shall transmit to the appropriate congressional com-  
13 mittees a list of persons who the President deter-  
14 mines have, on or after February 2, 1999, engaged  
15 in censorship or other activities with respect to  
16 ALBA countries that—

17 (A) prohibit, limit, or penalize the exercise  
18 of freedom of expression or assembly by citizens  
19 of ALBA countries; or

20 (B) limit access to print or broadcast  
21 media, including the facilitation or support of  
22 intentional frequency manipulation by the  
23 ALBA Governments or an entity owned or con-  
24 trolled by ALBA Governments that would jam  
25 or restrict an international signal.

1           (2) UPDATES OF LIST.—The President shall  
2           transmit to the appropriate congressional commit-  
3           tees an updated list under paragraph (1)—

4                   (A) not later than 180 days after the date  
5                   of the enactment of this Act; and

6                   (B) as new information becomes available.

7           (3) FORM OF LIST; PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—

8                   (A) FORM.—The list required under para-  
9                   graph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified  
10                  form but may contain a classified annex.

11                  (B) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The unclassi-  
12                  fied portion of the list required under para-  
13                  graph (1) shall be made available to the public  
14                  and posted on the Web sites of the Department  
15                  of the Treasury and the Department of State.

16 **SEC. 8. COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY TO PROMOTE INTER-**  
17 **NET FREEDOM AND ACCESS TO INFORMA-**  
18 **TION.**

19           Not later than 90 days after the date of the enact-  
20           ment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in consultation  
21           with the Secretary of the Treasury and the heads of other  
22           Federal departments and agencies, as appropriate, shall  
23           submit to the appropriate congressional committees a  
24           comprehensive strategy to—

1           (1) assist the people of ALBA countries to  
2           produce, access, and share information freely and  
3           safely via the Internet;

4           (2) increase the capabilities and availability of  
5           secure mobile and other communications through  
6           connective technology among human rights and de-  
7           mocracy activists in ALBA countries;

8           (3) provide resources for digital safety training  
9           for media and academic and civil society organiza-  
10          tions in ALBA countries;

11          (4) increase emergency resources for the most  
12          vulnerable human rights advocates seeking to orga-  
13          nize, share information, and support human rights  
14          in ALBA countries;

15          (5) expand surrogate radio, television, live  
16          stream, and social network communications inside  
17          ALBA countries;

18          (6) expand activities to safely assist and train  
19          human rights, civil society, and democracy activists  
20          in ALBA countries to operate effectively and se-  
21          curely;

22          (7) expand access to proxy servers for democ-  
23          racy activists in ALBA countries; and

1           (8) discourage telecommunications and software  
2           companies from facilitating Internet censorship by  
3           ALBA Governments.

4 **SEC. 9. COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY TO ENSURE THAT**  
5                   **ALBA GOVERNMENTS ARE DEMOCRATIC GOV-**  
6                   **ERNMENTS.**

7           Not later than 90 days after the date of the enact-  
8           ment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to  
9           the appropriate congressional committees a comprehensive  
10          strategy to ensure that ALBA Governments are demo-  
11          cratic governments that—

12               (1) result from free and fair elections—

13                   (A) conducted under the supervision of  
14                   internationally recognized observers; and

15                   (B) in which—

16                           (i) opposition parties were permitted  
17                           ample time to organize and campaign for  
18                           such elections; and

19                           (ii) all candidates were permitted full  
20                           access to the media;

21               (2) are showing respect for the basic civil lib-  
22               erties and human rights of the citizens of ALBA  
23               countries;

1           (3) are substantially moving toward a market-  
2 oriented economic systems based on the right to own  
3 and enjoy property;

4           (4) are committed to making constitutional  
5 changes that would ensure regular free and fair elec-  
6 tions and the full enjoyment of basic civil liberties  
7 and human rights by the citizens of ALBA coun-  
8 tries; and

9           (5) have made demonstrable progress in estab-  
10 lishing independent judiciaries and electoral councils.

11 **SEC. 10. STATEMENT OF POLICY ON POLITICAL PRIS-**  
12 **ONERS.**

13 It shall be the policy of the United States—

14           (1) to support efforts to research and identify  
15 prisoners of conscience and cases of human rights  
16 abuses in ALBA countries;

17           (2) to offer refugee status or political asylum in  
18 the United States to political dissidents in ALBA  
19 countries if requested and consistent with the laws  
20 and national security interests of the United States;

21           (3) to offer to assist, through the United Na-  
22 tions High Commissioner for Refugees, with the re-  
23 location of such political prisoners to other countries  
24 if requested, as appropriate and with appropriate

1 consideration for the national security interests of  
2 the United States; and

3 (4) to publicly call for the release of ALBA  
4 country dissidents by name and raise awareness with  
5 respect to individual cases of ALBA country dis-  
6 sidents and prisoners of conscience, as appropriate  
7 and if requested by the dissidents or prisoners them-  
8 selves or their families.

○