

**GRAND LODGE
FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE®**

309 Massachusetts Ave., N. E.
Washington, DC 20002
Phone 202-547-8188 • FAX 202-547-8190

CHUCK CANTERBURY
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

JAMES O. PASCO, JR.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Honorable David Dreier
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

6 June 2005

Dear Representative Dreier,

I am writing on behalf of the Fraternal Order of Police to advise you of our strong support for H.R. 2363, the "Peace Officer Justice Act," which will make it a Federal crime punishable by death or life imprisonment to murder a law enforcement officer and flee to a foreign nation. While it is already a Federal crime to flee prosecution, your bill extends the concept to impose the most serious penalties on the most heinous of offenses--the killing of a law enforcement officer.

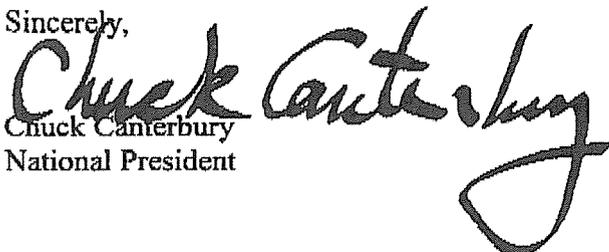
Foreign nations, especially Mexico and Cuba, harbor scores of criminals wanted for crimes they committed in the United States. Joanne Chesimard for example, murdered New Jersey State Trooper Werner Foerster and severely wounded his partner, Trooper James Harper in 1973. Following her conviction, she escaped a maximum security prison in 1979 and fled to Cuba, where she now lives under the protection of the Cuban government as an example of "political repression" in the United States. Fidel Castro's Communist government also plays host to at least two members of a group called the "Republic of New Africa," who murdered New Mexican State Trooper Robert Rosenbloom in 1972.

Just three years ago, Los Angeles County Deputy Sheriff David March was murdered while making a routine traffic stop. The man suspected of killing him, Armando Garcia, fled to Mexico to avoid prosecution for this terrible crime. Despite the extradition treaty between the United States and Mexico, he remains a free man.

While your bill does not address the need to bring to bear diplomatic and political pressure on these two nations to surrender these violent killers, it does provide an opportunity for our justice system to prosecute them at the Federal level. In these cases and others, the F.O.P. feels strongly that more needs to be done to bring these killers to justice by every available means.

The Fraternal Order of Police is proud to support this legislation and, on behalf of our more than 318,000 members, I want to thank you for your leadership on this issue. We look forward to working with you and your staff to get this bill enacted. If I can be of any further assistance on this issue, please do not hesitate to contact me or Executive Director Jim Pasco in my Washington, D.C. office.

Sincerely,


Chuck Canterbury
National President