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Resolved: We affirm the resolution; The United States should lift its embargo against Cuba.

Definitions: The United States embargo against Cuba is defined as; a proclamation or order of the state, usually issued in time of war or threatened hostiles, prohibiting the departure of ships or goods from some or all the ports of such states until further order. ~Black Law Dictionary

Weighing Mechanism: Out of the greatest outcomes for the majority of citizens, both in Cuba and the United States, this round should be assessed by the means of Utilitarianism. In order for the negation to win this debate they must be able to prove that by lifting the embargo, the majority of citizens of both countries will be benefited. (24 sec)

Despite Cuba not meeting the requirements, it’s the US job to fulfill duties other countries can’t stand up and do.

## Contention 1: Solved Contingencies

## Subpoint A: Leaders

The next administration’s policy toward Cuba will hinge on who is elected president. Both major Democratic candidates, Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders, have expressed support for normalization. However, of the six Republican candidates currently leading the polls, only Donald Trump supports normalizing ties with Cuba, while the other five (Senators Rubio and Cruz, Dr. Carson, and Governors Bush and Christie) have vocally opposed the policy. Donald Trump will allow us to continue the legacy Barack Obama set forth. (5) Donald Trump wants to convert the Cuban government in to a democracy and further normalization’s. This will be made more possible if Raul Castro, retires as Prime Minister.

(Oppman 13) (6) Cuban President Raul Castro said Sunday that he would step down from power in 2018, when his second term as president is set to end. Also Sunday, lawmakers elevated Miguel Diaz-Canel Bermudez, 52, to the position of first vice president, putting him next in line to succeed Castro. Raul Castro’s stepping down from power means that the Castro regime will have finally come to an end. Miguel Diaz – Canel Bermudez wants change and can possibly move towards normalizations. Normalizations will support international financial Institutions and will lead to humanitarian aid.

## Subpoint B: Release of Political Prisoners

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**The united states main contingency against the lifting of the embargo was the political prisoners held in Cuba. However, the Cuban government has released all those who were deemed safe**. The Cuban government has released a number of political prisoners in recent years. With the intercession of the Cuban Catholic Church, the Cuban government released some 14 White House, “Statement by the President on the Passing of Fidel Castro,” November 26, 2016**. (White House Statement) Cuba: Issues and Actions in the 114th Congress Congressional Research Service, released 125 political prisoners in 2010 and 2011, including the remaining members of the “group of 75”** that were still in prison. **In the aftermath of the December 2014 shift in U.S. policy toward Cuba, the Cuban government released another 53 political prisoners.** (although as noted below, six were rearrested in 2015). 15 **Among the 53 released were five jailed dissidents whom Amnesty International** (AI) had named as prisoners of conscience in 2016 as well as several other dissidents whose cases AI was following. Two of the five prisoners of conscience, Emilio Planas Robert and Iván Fernández Depestre, had been imprisoned since September 2012 and July 2013, respectively, and had been convicted of “dangerousness” (a preemptive measure defined as the special proclivity of a person to commit crimes). The other three “prisoners of conscience,” brothers Alexeis, Django, and Vianco Vargas Martín, were members of UNPACU. They were detained in late 2012 and convicted in June 2014 after a summary trial in which they were charged with “public disorder.”**17 Three other dissidents whose cases were followed by AI were released from prison on December 9, 2014**—Ladies in White member Sonia Garro Alfonso; her husband, Ramón Alejandro Muñoz González; and a neighbor, Eugenio Hernández. They had been held since March 2012.18 In 2015, the Cuban government released two additional political prisoners named as prisoners of conscience by Amnesty International, but one of them was rearrested in late 2016. Ciro Alexis Casonova Pérez, who had been placed under house arrest in June 2014 after demonstrating in the streets, was convicted in December 2014 of public disorder and sentenced to one year in prison. In April 2015, AI declared Casonova. In 2010, for example, the Associated Press [vetted](http://archive.boston.com/news/world/latinamerica/articles/2010/07/23/number_of_political_prisoners_in_cuba_still_murky/?page=1) a list of 167 political prisoners by Elizardo Sanchez, the head of the independent Cuban Commission on Human Rights and National Reconciliation**. (Qiu, 2016) About 50 people on the list "were convicted of terrorism, hijacking or other violent crimes, and four are former military or intelligence agents convicted of espionage or revealing state secrets," according to the AP.**

Even for those who are traditionally recognized as political prisoners, Cuba rejects the term, Salim Lamrani, a Cuba expert at the University of Paris, told PolitiFact. "Cuba’s point of view is the following: People condemned to jail sentences were not imprisoned because they expressed ideas against the authorities but because they accepted money from the U.S. government," he said, adding that he agrees with Castro that Cuba has no political prisoners.   **Nonetheless, in 2015, Cuba**[**released**](http://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-cuba-prisoners-idUSKBN0KL10K20150113)[**53 people**](http://www.miamiherald.com/news/nation-world/world/americas/cuba/article6386535.html)**the United States named as political prisoners as part of the deal to normalize trade relations**, even though the regime had denied their existence for decades, said Ponce of Freedom House. Out of the 97 people in our aggregate tally, here are examples of a few who are most in line with the traditional definition of political prisoner:

**What this is telling us is that the political prisoners that we continue thinking are there have already been released. Both sources point that all prisoners have been either given back to the US, or have been in jail in Cuba because of a crime they committed.**

https://fas.org/sgp/crs/row/R43926.pdf

## Contention 2: Benefits

## Subpoint A: Money Deficit

the US could gain 1.2 billion dollars every year though exports to Cuba. Additionally, US companies will have access to a new market, which could ultimately create more jobs for US citizens.

This new money can be used for multiple amounts of benefits. Along with the new 1.2 billion dollar intake per year, according to Harvard politics, 6,000 US Jobs could be created in agriculture and telecommunication. This 1.2 billion dollar injection could in fact boost the economy and decrease cyclical employment. According to Colorado University, more spending can in fact increase aggregate demand leading to more demand for workers, which can reduce unemployment

## Subpoint B: Health

**Cuba is famous for its state of the art health care and health research work**, and for the help it provides to other poor countries in health care, including the training of thousands of doctors. **However, there are things that Cuba cannot do in the health care field, because of the ever-vigilant OFAC snoops.**

**Cuba cannot acquire certain types of advanced health care, diagnostic and surgical equipment, or has had to pay extra for equipment that lacks the 10 percent of U.S. origin materials or parts which makes the blockade kick in**. Cuban health care professionals are forbidden from attending some international health meetings and seminars, because part of the expenses of these activities are being paid by U.S. institutions or non-governmental organizations, who could be fined.

Cuba is supposed to be able to buy some food from the United States, but cannot do so on normal credit terms other countries are afforded, which drives up the costs.  Naturally, Cuba is not allowed to sell its products in the United States, **even medical innovations that would be helpful to U.S. people.**

In addition, the embargo **hinders U.S. business.** Recently, a group representing 11 Midwestern state governments voted in favor of lifting the Cuba trade restrictions, which hurt the economy of this agricultural-rich region.  According to the resolution, if the restrictions were ended each of these states could average between $60 million to $150 million annually in additional trade.

**Cuba considers that these actions, aimed at the entire Cuban people, fit the U.N.’s official definition of genocide**. Last year and previously, the U.S. ambassadors to the United Nations have always contemptuously denied that the blockade is harming the Cuban people at all. This year, the U.S. ambassador is Samantha Power, of “humanitarian intervention” fame.

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Citations:

1. 5 The list of 53 prisoners reportedly had been drawn up by the Obama Administration and included those jailed for having peacefully exercised their rights of freedom of expression and assembly. David Adams, Matt Spetalnick, and Lesley Wroughton, “How Prisoners Names Were Drawn Up in U.S.-Cuba Secret Talks,” Reuters News, January 12, 2015.
2. 16 AI defines prisoners of conscience as those jailed because of their political, religious, or other conscientiously held beliefs, ethnic origin, sex, color, language, national or social origin, economic status, birth, sexual orientation, or other status, provided they have neither used nor advocated violence.
3. 17 AI, “Prisoners of Conscience Released in Cuba,” January 9, 2015.
4. 18 AI, “Government Critics Under House Arrest,” December 15, 2014.
5. 19 AI, “Political Dissident Must Be Released,” April 2, 2015; “El Régimen Excarcela al Opositor Ciro Alexis Casanova Pérez,” Diario de Cuba, June 11, 2015.