# 1NC

Resolved: We negate 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 all 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 citizens of both countries will be benefited.

After decreasing embargo a little bit there was human rights via lotions

## Contention 1: Human Rights

### Subpoint A: Easing Restrictions

The Obama administration has continued its effort to expand contact between the U.S. and Cuba by easing restrictions on travel, exports, and export financing. Commerce Secretary Penny Pritzker spoke of “building a more open and mutually beneficial relationship.”

However, the administration expressed concern over Havana’s dismal human rights practices. Although Raul Castro’s government has continued economic reforms, it has maintained the Communist Party’s political stranglehold. Indeed, despite the warm reception given Pope Francis last fall, the regime has been on the attack against Cubans of faith.

A stage and chairs are set up in the Plaza de la Revolucion in preparation for a mass during the upcoming visit of Pope Francis in Havana, Cuba, on Friday, Sept. 18, 2015. (Photographer: Lisette Poole/Bloomberg)

In a new report the group Christian Solidarity Worldwide warned of “an unprecedented crackdown on churches across the denominational spectrum,” which has “fueled a spike in reported violations of freedom of religion or belief.” There were 220 specific violations of religious liberties in 2014, but 2300 last year, many of which “involved entire churches or, in the cases of arrests, dozens of victims.” In contrast, there were only 40 cases in 2011.

Even in the best of times the Castros have never been friends of faith in anything other than themselves. The State Department’s 2014 report on religious liberty reported that it was easier for Cubans to engage in some charitable and educational projects and import Bibles. However, “the government harassed outspoken religious leaders and their followers, including reports of beating, threats, detentions, and restrictions on travel. Religious leaders reported the government tightened controls on financial resources.”

Last year the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom was similarly critical. The number of believers is growing, but the regime attempts to closely control religious practices. The Commission explained: “Serious religious freedom violations continue in Cuba, despite improvements for government-approved religious groups.” Never mind the papal visit, “the government continues to detain and harass religious leaders and laity, interfere in religious groups’ internal affairs, and prevent democracy and human rights activists from participating in religious activities.”

Now CSW has issued its own report. There long has been discrimination against Christians in employment, university, and primary/secondary education. Communist Party members who convert and leave the party “face particular discrimination,” including threats made against them and their families.

However, last year’s increase in persecution “was largely due to the government declaring 2000 Assemblies of God (AoG) churches illegal, ordering the closure or demolition of 100 AoG churches in three provinces, and expropriating the properties of a number of other denominations, including the Methodist and Baptist Conventions.” Indeed, many church groups suffered at the Cuban government’s hands. For instance, Berean Baptists and Jehovah’s Witnesses were stripped of their official registration, placing them outside of the law; the Vetero-Catholic Church was prevented from registering. Noted CSW: “Religious groups across the spectrum reported varying degrees of hostility from the government.”

### Subpoint B: Authoritarianism

In an official announcement in state newspaper Granma, government officials announced a system in which employees who work for corporations with foreign capital will be paid two Cuban Pesos for every Convertible Cuban Peso (CUC) the corporation actually pays them. The Convertible Peso (CUP) is almost exclusively for the use of tourists and is of significantly greater value; one CUC is the equivalent of an American dollar and the equivalent of 26.5 CUPs. The other 24 CUPs Cuban workers will not receive amount to 92% of their salaries.

## Contention 2: