

# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6225

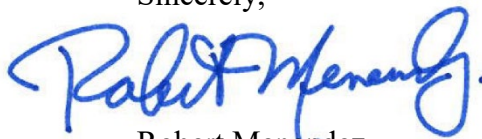
January 9, 2023

The Honorable José Manuel Albares  
Foreign Minister  
Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Plaza del Marqués de Salamanca, 8  
Madrid, Spain

Dear Foreign Minister Albares,

I am writing to commend you and the Sánchez government for your decision to stand with the Cuban people by denying 350,000 Euros-worth of tear gas and other crowd control material to the Diaz-Canel regime in 2022. This important decision demonstrates your government's strong resolve to prioritize human rights considerations in your engagements with foreign governments, and it sends a strong message to the Diaz-Canel regime that there are international consequences for the ongoing repression of its own citizens. I am grateful for your leadership in Spain's decision to take this principled step. It is my sincere hope that the Sánchez government continues to deny arms and crowd control material to the Diaz-Canel regime going forward. Spain is a vital U.S. strategic partner, and I look forward to continuing to find ways to strengthen cooperation between our two governments in protecting human rights and countering dictatorial governments in Latin America and the Caribbean and across the world.

Sincerely,



Robert Menendez  
Chairman