

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(3)

TO: Honorable Chairwoman Audrey M. Edmonson
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: June 16, 2020

FROM: Abigail Price-Williams
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution urging the
Trump Administration and
United States Secretary of
State Michael R. Pompeo
to designate the Sandinista
National Liberation Front as
a foreign terrorist organization

Resolution No. R-584-20

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Esteban L. Bovo, Jr.



Abigail Price-Williams
County Attorney



APW/smm



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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and Members, Board of County Commissioners

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Please note any items checked.

- ☐ "3-Day Rule" for committees applicable if raised
- ☐ 6 weeks required between first reading and public hearing
- ☐ 4 weeks notification to municipal officials required prior to public hearing
- ☐ Decreases revenues or increases expenditures without balancing budget
- ☐ Budget required
- ☐ Statement of fiscal impact required
- ☐ Statement of social equity required
- ☐ Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Mayor's report for public hearing
- ☒ No committee review
- ☐ Applicable legislation requires more than a majority vote (i.e., 2/3's present ____, 2/3 membership ____, 3/5's ____, unanimous ____, CDMP 7 vote requirement per 2-116.1(3)(h) or (4)(c) ____, CDMP 2/3 vote requirement per 2-116.1(3)(h) or (4)(c) ____, or CDMP 9 vote requirement per 2-116.1(4)(c)(2) ____ to approve
- ☐ Current information regarding funding source, index code and available balance, and available capacity (if debt is contemplated) required

Approved _____ Mayor
Veto _____
Override _____

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(3)

6-16-20

RESOLUTION NO. _____ R-584-20

RESOLUTION URGING THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION
AND UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF STATE MICHAEL R.
POMPEO TO DESIGNATE THE SANDINISTA NATIONAL
LIBERATION FRONT AS A FOREIGN TERRORIST
ORGANIZATION

WHEREAS, recent elections in Nicaragua, including the 2016 presidential election, have been marred by irregularities and characterized by significant restrictions on the participation of opposition political parties as well as the absence of credible international and local electoral observers; and

WHEREAS, as a result, Daniel Ortega, Nicaragua's current President and former Sandinista revolutionary, and the Sandinista National Liberation Front, known as the *Frente Sandinista de Liberación Nacional* in Spanish, (FSLN) have concentrated power and brought about the continuing deterioration of democratic conditions in Nicaragua; and

WHEREAS, the FSLN is a socialist political party and Nicaragua's sole leading party; and

WHEREAS, the members of FSLN are called Sandinistas; and

WHEREAS, the FSLN is named after August César Sandino, who led the Nicaraguan resistance against the United States occupation of Nicaragua in the 1930s; and

WHEREAS, Daniel Ortega and the FSLN have been the subject of protest by thousands of Nicaraguans who have recently staged the largest popular uprising since the end of the nation's civil war nearly 30 years ago; and

WHEREAS, since April 18, 2018, the people of Nicaragua have protested against the FSLN, demanding a transparent non-corrupt government, demanding access to necessities such as food and medicine, and free, fair and multiparty elections; and

WHEREAS, according to the Organization of American States, Nicaraguan security forces, paramilitary, police, and other actors working under the direction of the FSLN committed gross violations of human rights and acts of repression, resulting in more than 325 deaths, over 2,000 injuries, and at least 800 arbitrary detentions during the peaceful protests that took place in 2018; and

WHEREAS, a report by the Interdisciplinary Group of Independent Experts, appointed by the Organization of American States Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, determined that the FSLN used deliberate, lethal force against protesters and committed acts of torture that meet the international legal standard of crimes against humanity; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 82,000 Nicaraguans fled the country between April 2018 and October 2019, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; and

WHEREAS, the Ortega government, led by the FSLN, failed to comply with its commitment to release all political prisoners, releasing just 392 people, of which 286 were released to house arrest with charges still pending; and

WHEREAS, as of November 29, 2019, there remain over 150 political prisoners held in Nicaraguan prisons, according to Nicaragua's Civil Alliance for Justice and Democracy; and

WHEREAS, a United States citizen and Navy veteran, 57-year-old Eddy Montes, was shot and killed while in the custody of the Nicaraguan police at La Modelo Prison on May 16, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the FSLN has severely restricted freedom of the press by closing five local television stations, attacking independent radio stations, arbitrarily detaining journalists, and arbitrarily restricting print supplies from entering the country; and

WHEREAS, beginning on November 14, 2019, the FSLN directed the Nicaraguan police to conduct attacks on churches throughout the country, cut water to hunger strikers barricaded inside a church in Masaya, and arrested 13 people attempting to bring them water; and

WHEREAS, the FSLN has violated the economic and political rights of indigenous communities, Afro-descendent populations, rural campesinos, land rights defenders, and individuals living in the Caribbean Autonomous Regions of Nicaragua; and

WHEREAS, the unlawful acts taken or led by the FSLN constitute terrorist activities or terrorism, which threaten the security of United States nationals and the national security of the United States; and

WHEREAS, this Board believes that the terrorist activities of the FSLN necessitate a response from the United States government; and

WHEREAS, specifically, this Board believes that designating the FSLN as a foreign terrorist organization is a critical step in the fight against terrorism,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that this Board:

Section 1. Urges the Trump Administration and United States Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo to designate the Sandinista National Liberation Front as a foreign terrorist organization in accordance with section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

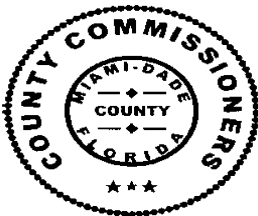
Section 2. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to United States President Donald Trump and United States Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo.

Section 3. Directs the County’s federal lobbyists to advocate for the action set forth in section 1 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to amend the 2020 Federal Legislative Package to include this item.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Esteban L. Bovo, Jr. It was offered by Commissioner **Rebeca Sosa** , who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Daniella Levine Cava** and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Audrey M. Edmonson, Chairwoman	aye		
Rebeca Sosa, Vice Chairwoman	aye		
Esteban L. Bovo, Jr.	aye	Daniella Levine Cava	aye
Jose “Pepe” Diaz	aye	Sally A. Heyman	aye
Eileen Higgins	aye	Barbara J. Jordan	aye
Joe A. Martinez	aye	Jean Monestime	aye
Dennis C. Moss	aye	Sen. Javier D. Souto	aye
Xavier L. Suarez	aye		

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 16th day of June, 2020. This resolution shall become effective upon the earlier of (1) 10 days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the County Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board, or (2) approval by the County Mayor of this resolution and the filing of this approval with the Clerk of the Board.



MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
BY ITS BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

HARVEY RUVIN, CLERK

Melissa Adames

By: _____
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.

RC

Ryan Carlin