

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 8, 2013

Mr. Shawn Carter ("Jay-Z")
c/o Jana Fleishman
Roc Nation, LLC
New York, NY

Dear Mr. Carter,

We write to bring to your immediate attention alert you to the grave situation of young Cuban rapper Angel Yunier Remon Arzuaga, known as "El Critico" (or "The Critic"), and to respectfully urge you to raise awareness of his case publicly. As a fellow artist and rapper, we believe that your experience and love for music will help bring attention to the plight of this young Cuban rapper languishing in Castro's gulag.

Angel is on the verge of death in a Cuban prison cell following his arrest for the "crime" of criticizing the repressive Castro dictatorship. In Cuba, Angel is known as a courageous, innovative rapper who dares to honestly relay his experiences in totalitarianism. For simply expressing his views through music, Angel was tear-gassed, beaten, and imprisoned on March 21, 2013. While in prison, he was once again beaten, suffered from cholera due to the dire prison conditions that deny basic healthcare services, and began a hunger strike to protest his inhumane treatment and unjust imprisonment.

While standing in freedom, it is our moral obligation to speak out against affronts to basic human dignity and civil liberties. Today, Angel is languishing in a Bayamo prison cell, on the verge of sacrificing himself to achieve freedom. You may not have spoken out about human rights while you were in Cuba this year, but we hope that your avowed love for the Cuban people and your empathy for a fellow musician will move you to express solidarity with Angel now.

All human beings are entitled to basic human rights such as freedom of expression. No one should suffer brutality and imprisonment for peacefully questioning his government. The attention that you could bring to Angel's unjust imprisonment, through a simple press release, comment, or tweet, could allow Angel return to his young wife and infant child. We hope that you will seize the opportunity to possibly save his life by simply calling for his release.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent life or death matter.

Sincerely,


Mario Diaz-Balart
Member of Congress


Albio Sires
Member of Congress


Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Member of Congress