



MELINDA K. ROMERO-DONNELLY  
SENATOR

CHAIR  
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INTERNSHIPS

## Tan pronto como la próxima semana Melinda Romero inicia reuniones en los Estados Unidos para exigir las disculpas públicas del Presidente Obama

Realizará conferencia de prensa en Florida, Chicago y New York

**(San Juan, El Capitolio, viernes 17 de junio de 2011)-** La senadora Melinda K. Romero anunció que el próximo jueves realizará su primera conferencia de prensa y reuniones en los Estados Unidos dirigidas a exigirle al Presidente Barack Obama una disculpa certera al pueblo de Puerto Rico.

"Es importante conocer del propio Presidente si él discrimina contra un estado totalmente hispano. Nosotros somos ciudadanos americanos que aportamos a la nación con la sangre de nuestros soldados y hemos promovido los mejores intereses de los Estados Unidos en todas las facetas económicas y sociales, como es nuestra responsabilidad. Me da mucha pena, vergüenza y coraje que el desplante lo haya hecho un Presidente demócrata como yo", expresó Romero.

La Senadora Demócrata presentó la carta que le envió al Presidente y anunció que realizará reuniones con comunidades puertorriqueñas e hispanas en Florida, Chicago y New York en una primera fase.

Romero quien es Delegada del Partido Demócrata dijo sentirse con autoridad para exigirle a su Presidente que se disculpe con el pueblo que visitó por 4 horas, sólo para recoger dinero para su campaña y esboce un claro mensaje de colaboración y solución para los asuntos de los residentes de Puerto Rico.

Melinda dejará claramente establecida, la poca elegancia del Presidente Obama al discriminar contra el gobernante por ser republicano. "Prefirió marcharse con un demócrata para hacer política y colocar la foto de ese encuentro político en la página oficial de la Casa Blanca. Tan pronto el Presidente se marchó su comensal se burló al reiterar que NO cree en el voto presidencial de los ciudadanos americanos. La Nación se enterará de esta farsa, de este montaje pagado en una visita oficial donde se burlaron de los puertorriqueños, ciudadanos Americanos, tanto los de aquí como los de allá".

Romero dijo que la celebración local del encuentro político, será su mejor evidencia en contra de la actitud del Presidente.

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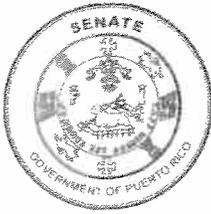
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PUERTO RICO  
*Senate*

"El Presidente no trajo nada nuevo, su visita sólo sirvió para llevarse los billetes, como se llevan a nuestros jóvenes a la guerra. Mi dignidad como ciudadana americana me obliga a exigir, de frente, los derechos que nos son negados y que los asuntos de la Isla se atiendan de una manera seria y respetuosa", acotó la Legisladora.

Romero le pidió a todas aquellas personas que tengan familiares en los Estados Unidos que lleven el mensaje y le escriban a la Casa Blanca sobre la indignación.

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June 16, 2011

President Barack H. Obama  
United States of America  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

It is with great displeasure that I address the institution of the Presidency on this day. As a member of the National Democratic Party, and elected Senator of Puerto Rico, it is my duty to forcefully condemn your most recent visit to the island of Puerto Rico in an alleged official capacity with a completely political result.

I understand that most of the stateside US citizens have difficulty understanding the local politics in Puerto Rico, where elections are decided on an entirely different platform than the Democratic and Republican arena. Puerto Rico politically divides itself by the unique difference on our views as to the political relationship between the Island and the United States of America. That is why it is so common to see, as you have had the opportunity to observe, that democrats and republicans in Puerto Rico share the same ballot, come elections, and serve side by side, as is the current situation with Governor Fortuño (R) and Resident Commissioner Pierluisi (D).

Most of the US Citizens residing in Puerto Rico, almost 4 million, have no real inclinations towards either of the National parties. This has been the case for almost 100 years since the day that we were given the privilege of being natural born US Citizens who do not have the right to representation in Congress and who also are not "American enough" to vote for the Commander in Chief. As a demonstration of this, is the fact that you had lunch in Puerto Rico with a "so called" Democrat who strongly opposes the right to vote for The President of the United States.

I have been a US Citizen since the moment I was born and have never been given a chance to participate equally in the nation of which I am a proud citizen, on the other hand, I have also lived my entire life knowing that my mother was

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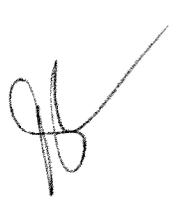
FUERTO RICO  
*Senate*

stricken from all her US privileges for the sole reason of deciding to form a family and serve as First Lady of the unincorporated territory of Puerto Rico.

Moving to the specific reasons why the Office of the President has demonstrated a complete lack of respect for the US Citizens residing in Puerto Rico I must state the following:

1. Were this visit an official Presidential visit, the President would have addressed the people in an established manner of protocol, with the established hierarchical ranks followed, then, by special guests or friends of the President. Unfortunately, the President clearly established the role of his visit by making special reference to the Democratic fund raisers in the room, other Democratic friends and leaving an irreverent and incidental hello to the Governor of the People of Puerto Rico and completely dismissing other ranking elected officials present, whose only mistake was being Republicans.
2. As the President continued his arrival address he dramatically changed his standing position with regards to the status issue that was so important as Primary Candidate and President Elect, Obama.

"We also pledged during my campaign to work with Congress and all groups in Puerto Rico to enable the question of Puerto Rico's status to be resolved during the next four years. I am fully aware of the difficulties that Puerto Rico has faced in the past when dealing with this issue, but self-determination is a basic right to be addressed no matter how difficult. Your right to self-determination is deepened even further by the brave service that Puerto Ricans have provided to the nation's armed forces, protecting all our people from foreign dangers throughout the past century. We will work to give a voice to the people of Puerto Rico to enable them to determine their political future." President Elect Barack Obama, January 2, 2009.



vs.

"When the people of Puerto Rico make a clear decision, my administration will stand by you." President Barack Obama, June 14, 2011.

There is a definite and obvious difference between acknowledging that self determination is a basic right to be addressed no matter how difficult, and standing by to see what is decided by those you

have established have not been able to do so. After giving us hope, for the first time in decades, by announcing that the issue would be resolved in the next four years, you have now joined the ranks of all those who never regarded Puerto Rico important enough to employ the necessary leadership and resolve the issue once and for all. This, being the obvious stance regarding the preference of the National Democratic Party "big bucks" in Puerto Rico, even though many of them would relinquish their US Citizenship in an instant and have completely disregarded the Office of the President of the United States with the assertion that the inalienable right to vote is of no importance.

3. Even though the President was welcomed at "La Fortaleza", the Governor's Mansion, it was mostly a photo-op visit where no new discussions, decisions or agreements were addressed. The end result of that visit was nothing more than an excuse to officially travel to Puerto Rico for DNC events, with absolutely no intention of bringing further collaboration to improve the economic and social situations affecting the island.
4. A "surprise" encounter with a mere Senator of no consequence, other than being a potential candidate to the office of Governor, was an insult to the people of Puerto Rico. Contrary to the Democratic values of my national party, Mr. Garcia has no interest in defending the rights of the United States and has publicly and privately stated that US citizens should not be allowed to vote for their Commander in Chief. Because, Mr. President, **never** forget that we ALL are US Citizens, even though we live in the most beautiful island in the Western Hemisphere.
5. After said encounter, two official DNC fundraisers, announced to leave an estimated amount of 1.2 million dollars, not bad for a four hour trip.



My children, 13 and 10, asked me why the President had come to Puerto Rico to look for money. That, for me, was the clearest demonstration of what the "Official" Presidential visit was really about, a fundraising event.

Today, it is my obligation as elected Senator and as a proud supporter of the National Democratic Party, of which I have been a delegate to several Conventions and have proudly endorsed my candidates to occupy the Office of

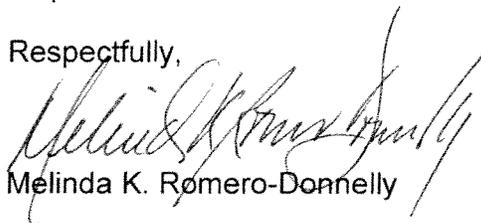
President of The United States, to confront the truth about the disrespectful nature of your recent visit to Puerto Rico and urge you to receive all sides of the issues in a full and complete manner.

Mr. President, when attending to the issues pertaining to residents on the Island of Puerto Rico, disregard the Republican and Democratic partisanship and have a decided stance as to what is right and what is wrong. Do not fail in your responsibility to recognize that "All men are created equal" and when all those *men* are US Citizens, it is the obligation of their President to assume the necessary leadership in securing fair and equal treatment for all, with complete disregard to their place of Residence.

I have the utmost confidence that on the day that The President of the United States takes a decided and forceful approach towards the eradication of discrimination on all its forms, Puerto Rico will finally have the necessary leadership from its Commander in Chief to solve go our most basic violation of rights as born American Citizens. Have the courage to stand up to what is wrong and afford the residents of Puerto Rico a solution to our centennial problems.

If Puerto Rico has been good for fundraising activities of important significance, it must be good enough to have our problems addressed in a serious and respectful manner.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Melinda K. Romero-Donnelly".

Melinda K. Romero-Donnelly