



AMERICANS FOR LIMITED GOVERNMENT

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April 13th, 2010

United States Senate Foreign Relations Committee
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

To the Members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee:

We urge you to vote against the confirmation of Mari Del Carmen Aponte for the post of Ambassador to El Salvador.

As United States' interests in Central and South America continue to be under pressure from Venezuela and Cuba, it is important that our nation is represented by someone with both the foreign affairs experience and unquestioned loyalty to our country — unfortunately, Mari Del Carmen Aponte falls short on both counts.

Aponte's nomination is permanently tainted by her 1990's close, personal relationship with a man whom U.S. counterintelligence considered a Cuban DGI agent, according to a confidential intelligence memo that was obtained by Insight magazine. Aponte's failure to cooperate with a 1994 FBI investigation into the allegations, and her refusal to participate in a polygraph test after some of the answers to FBI questions showed minor inconsistencies serve as automatic disqualifiers for this nominee.

Ms. Aponte's later tenure in the post as the Governor of Puerto Rico's top representative in the District of Columbia puts at best her judgment, and at worse her loyalty in doubt. On one occasion, she publicly referred to Puerto Rico as a "country," and shortly thereafter issuing a press release calling her office in D.C. an "embassy."

While her allegiance toward an independent Puerto Rico is part of the legitimate political discussion on the island, this allegiance combined with her previous unresolved ties to the Cuban spy agency show that she cannot be trusted to serve the interests of the United States.

For these reasons, Americans for Limited Government strongly urges this Committee to reject the nomination of Mari Del Carmen Aponte to be Ambassador to El Salvador.

Sincerely,

William Wilson
President
Americans for Limited Government