



April 14, 2016

Loretta E. Lynch  
Attorney General of the United States  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

**Re: Carnival Corporation's  
Violations of the Civil Rights of Cuban-Americans**

Dear General Lynch:

Yesterday I contacted a Carnival Corporation affiliate ("Carnival"), Fathom Travel Ltd., Corp. ("Fathom"), to inquire about its upcoming cruises to Cuba. The cruises are scheduled to depart from the Port of Miami and sail to Cuba, making stops in Havana, Santiago de Cuba, and Cienfuegos.

I was told by the Carnival representative that, even though I am a U.S. citizen, I couldn't purchase a fare for the cruises and board the ships in Miami sailing to Cuba because I was born in Cuba. She said that Carnival had no choice but to abide by Cuba's discriminatory laws that exclude Cuban born persons from ships visiting Cuban ports.

I have since learned that I am not the only Cuban born U.S. citizen that has been discriminated in this way by Carnival. Yesterday, a class action lawsuit was filed in the Southern District of Florida against Carnival and Fathom for violation of the civil rights of Cuban born citizens and residents of the United States who have been similarly discriminated.

Why isn't the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice ("DoJ") enforcing the civil rights laws against Carnival to prevent its discrimination based on national origin?

The U.S. civil rights laws prohibit discrimination on the basis of national origin. In fact, DoJ's Civil Rights Division has enforcement programs dedicated to the "federal protection against national origin discrimination."

According to the DoJ website, "Laws prohibiting national origin discrimination make it illegal to discriminate because of a person's birthplace, ancestry, culture or language. This means people cannot be denied equal opportunity because they or their family are from another country, because they have a name or accent associated with a national origin group, because they participate in certain customs associated with a national origin group, or because they are married to or associate with people of a certain national origin."

That the U.S. civil rights laws prohibit national origin discrimination should not be surprising to anyone, least of all to a major U.S. business, such as Carnival, with its operational headquarters based in Miami, Florida.

And yet, that is exactly what Carnival is doing. Carnival is denying equal opportunity to any Cuban-born person, including U.S. citizens, from boarding in Miami any of its cruises sailing to Cuba, merely because that person came from another country; in this case - Cuba.

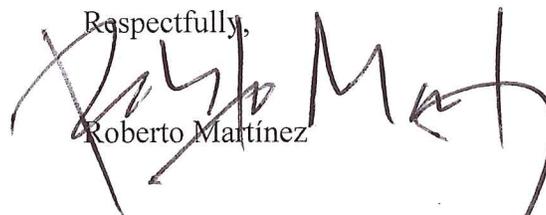
Shamelessly, Carnival tries to absolve itself from its illegal conduct by pointing its finger at the Cuban Government and blaming it for its discriminatory laws. But, it is Carnival that is playing the role of the Cuban Government police, doing its dirty work by enforcing the Cuban Government's discriminatory laws. Carnival is willing to play that role for business reasons. It is, after all, in business to make money for its executives and shareholders.

But, where is the DoJ in all of this? Why isn't the DoJ stepping in to protect the civil rights of its citizens and residents born in Cuba?

The inaugural Carnival cruise to Cuba is scheduled to leave Miami on May 1, 2016. There is plenty of time for the DoJ to act to protect the civil rights of Cuban born U.S. citizens and residents.

I respectfully urge DoJ's Civil Rights Division and the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Florida to get involved immediately and file an enforcement action against Carnival to protect the civil rights of Cuban-born U.S. citizens and residents and enjoin Carnival's discrimination based on national origin.

Respectfully,



Roberto Martinez

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cc: Wilfredo A. Ferrer, U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Florida