

## Republican Perspective

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### **Kaepernick---"Like Minds Think Alike"**

Here's the sequel to "Kaepernick---Dissing the Anthem," which discussed the QB's disrespect of our national anthem, our flag, and our nation. And that his anti-American butt plant was applauded in the media and sadly was even condoned by the President of the United States.

In the original essay, I mentioned that I had been propelled into researching before writing (always a wise approach) and that my research had found there was more to this story than was revealed in the early reporting.

It turns out that, while discussing his views and his reasoning at a post-game interview, Kaepernick presented himself wearing a t-shirt featuring the image of the renowned champion of human rights, Fidel Castro. Now, you might get away with wearing such symbolism if you were shopping at the mall or playing catch in the park. But Kaepernick chose to wear that garb while publicly slamming America, the oppressor of minorities.

There are some among us who escaped from Castro's clutches. Let's see how they feel about Kaepernick's choice of costume.

Jose "Pepe" Hernandez, of the Cuban American National Foundation and a Bay of Pigs veteran, said Kaepernick's "... actions are, at best, tremendously ignorant and irresponsible." He continued: "As a major sports figure, for him to select the image of Fidel Castro to represent his opposition to what is happening in the United States...is thoughtless and an insult to all those who...have suffered the human rights abuses of the Castro dictatorship." Hernandez pointed out that Castro caused "deaths, disappearances, imprisonment of people and separation of families."

Columnist Miguel Perez offered: "I respect people's right to protest. At the same time, you identify yourself with a monster like Fidel Castro, you lose all credibility, and you show you're basically an ignoramus." Perez continued: "Does he know what Fidel Castro has been like to the Cuban people? Does he think the Cuban people, of all races, have the right to protest like he does? Because obviously if anyone there, including a Cuban athlete, ever protested, they would disappear. A Cuban athlete would never get away with...refusing to stand for the anthem in protest of Cuba's treatment of its people."

Orlando sports columnist George Diaz: "There's no question that racial inequality needs to be a topic...in the United States. But that gets us back to Cuba, where such conversations

can get you to prison." And "I find it personally insulting that Kaepernick is oblivious...that Castro is one of the most vile dictators of modern times with extensive human rights violations."

Sergio Sixto was imprisoned and tortured by Castro. "...more than 100,000 people...died in Cuba because of the Castros. There are three million in exile...If he would know what it's like living in Cuba, he would know what it's like to be an oppressed black man." And "If he had said anything bad about the government or the Castros in protest of real discrimination and oppression, he might have found himself in prison like I did for trying to speak my mind and bring about change."

Human Rights Watch: "The Cuban government...relies on long-term prison sentences to punish critics...Other repressive tactics...include beatings, public acts of shaming, and termination of employment."

In his protest against racial injustice in the U.S., Kaepernick managed to align himself with a ruthless dictator who would never for a moment have tolerated any such protest. Personally, I encourage him to go to Cuba and protest the Castro regime's brutality and violations of human rights.

Possibly Kaepernick actually understands and agrees with the Castro regime's treatment of dissidents. This interpretation would be indicated by the caption on his Fidel t-shirt: Like Minds Think Alike.

Or possibly Kaepernick is just, as Miguel Perez said, an ignoramus.