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## Ted Cruz says he hasn't misled about his father's exodus from Cuba



By Robert T. Garrett  
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CLARIFICATION: On some occasions since 2005, Ted Cruz has publicly mentioned the date of his father's departure from Cuba and even the fact he fought on the same side as Fidel Castro. However, in the past two months, the newspaper found no instances in which he offered audiences any clues that his father was a pre-Castro exile.

Texas U.S. Senate hopeful Ted Cruz often ends his speeches with a story about how his father fled Cuban oppression.

But what the stumping GOP Senate candidate hadn't clarified, until asked by *The Dallas Morning News* this week, was that his father departed for the U.S. in 1957, more than a year before Fidel Castro came to power.

"Y'all know my heart," Ted Cruz told the Austin Republican Women last month. "My dad fled Cuba. He was imprisoned and tortured as a teenager, and came to Austin penniless, seeking freedom. The reason I'm running is simple. He fled oppression once. And you have my word that I'll fight every day to protect freedom here, so that none of us have to flee oppression a second time."

Cruz hasn't incorrectly described when his father fled from Cuba, as has U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla. According to the *Washington Post*, Rubio said on three occasions since 2006 and on his official Senate website that his parents came to the U.S. after Castro's forces overthrew Batista in January 1959. They actually arrived here in May 1956, the *Post* said.

Cruz, though, has remained silent as journalists and political activists incorrectly placed his father among the many Cubans who left the island nation after Castro took power, rather than as someone who fought on the same side as Castro to topple a rightist dictator, though he departed for Texas before the revolution succeeded.

"He was a guerilla, throwing Molotov cocktails and blowing up buildings," Ted Cruz told the *Austin American-Statesman* for a profile published in January 2006.

Earlier this month, Liberty Institute president Kelly Shackelford introduced Cruz to 3,000 Christian conservatives at the Values Voters Summit in Washington, D.C., as "the next great conservative hope."

"He's the combination of the intellectual skill and principle of [Utah GOP Sen.] Mike Lee and the story, the personal story of a Marco Rubio — his dad having escaped Fidel Castro, came into the United States, working as a dishwasher," Shackelford said.

Last month, a *Houston Chronicle* political blog described Cruz as "a Cuban American whose family escaped from Castro tyranny."

In an interview Monday, Cruz professed not to be aware of confusion about when his father, Rafael Cruz, left Cuba.

"If Kelly [Shackelford] said that, I did not notice that statement," he said. "That's certainly not something I say because it's not the case."

Cruz said he hasn't misled.

"I have many, many times described the full context of his fighting with [Fidel] Castro — in the broader sense, ... not side by side, but on the same side as Castro," he said.

Shackelford, reached on Monday, said his point was the elder Cruz "came here for freedom" after being a "political prisoner."

"As to whether it was [Fulgencio] Batista or Castro [in power,] I'm like, it doesn't really matter," Shackelford said. "There was one dictator replaced by a future dictator."

Cruz, a former state solicitor general enjoying tea party and social conservative support, is one of four major Republican candidates in the March primary to



succeed retiring Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison.

He said his father began fighting against Batista's regime when he was 14, in 1953. When the elder Cruz was 17, he was imprisoned and tortured by Batista's government, his son said. The next year, 1957, Rafael Cruz legally went to Texas on a student visa issued by the Batista regime, Ted Cruz said.

Ted Cruz, who opposes amnesty for illegal immigrants, said at no time was his father an illegal immigrant. He said his father, who graduated from the University of Texas in 1961, eventually became a permanent legal resident. The elder Cruz is now a U.S. citizen, living in Carrollton, his son said.

Ted Cruz said his father described himself as among young teenage boys who fought Batista and allied with Castro's forces because "they didn't know Castro was a Communist, what they knew was that Batista was a cruel and oppressive dictator."

Cruz said his father became a staunch critic of Castro, along with several family members who remained in Cuba, when the rebel leader took control and began seizing private property and suppressing dissent. Rafael Cruz' younger sister and their parents eventually made it to the U.S. during the 1960s, Ted Cruz said.

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**Wayne Ruple** · Heflin, Alabama

Republicans, conservatives, Tea Party, Klansmen, Birthers and the whole crowd have spent



several years looking at Obama and nitpicking so now we can have fun with Cruz!!!! Turn around time!!!! Born in Canada and father fought for the Communists!!!! well isnt that a hell of a note. Can Cruz prove he is not a communist???? Is he a communist hiding as a conservative???? What are his true feelings about America. We need to have some congressional hearings and clear up Cruz's history.

Reply · 14 · Like · June 5 at 8:22pm



**Debbie Rohrbach** · John Marshall High San Antonio Texas

Not to mention the elder Cruz was actually a Canadian citizen when Ted was born in Canada. Was his mother an American citizen? No info on that.

Reply · 6 · Like · July 22 at 1:56pm



**Calvin Huey** · Top Commenter · Works at DNR Maryland, Prof chemistry USNA, IBM

I totally agree. Cruz is not an American. His mother and father worked in Canada when the younger Cruz was born. One cannot work in Canada if you are not a citizen. Hence Ted Cruz is a Canadian. If you are born in Canada you are a citizen.

Reply · 4 · Like · August 6 at 8:03am



**Tena Lester Frith** · Works at Realtor - Taylor Real Estate Group

his father was never a Canadian citizen. I wonder, since Ted Cruz was born to a natural born Cuban citizen (his father)...does that make him a Cuban citizen also?

Reply · 3 · Like · August 20 at 10:04am

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**Lee Dunkelberg** · Top Commenter · Creative Communications Specialist at Esd & associates

And about that bribe to get his student visa? Shall we explore that?

Reply · 5 · Like · August 3 at 7:35am



**Roberto Ramirez** · Top Commenter · Works at Self Employed Contractor

Eduardo Rafael Cruz Sr. got a student visa to study at UT Austin from the Batista Government? I didn't know that UT Austin was in Cuba or the Batista was the president of the USA in 1957.

Reply · Like · 19 minutes ago



**Ben Oz** · Top Commenter · Babylon

Elect nutjobs like Rubio and Cruz at your own peril. Liars and exploiters of the ignorant.

Reply · 5 · Like · July 5 at 10:08am



**Ed Hinojosa** · Top Commenter · ,

well as a vietnam vet who fought against the viet cong and nva in 1966-67 i,m appalled s to why republicans always seem to be cozying up to marxist leninists lilke castros cubans who fought in vietnam ,and then calls themselves real americans just wtf is a real american anorth vietnam eses sympathizer like john maccian ,let me get thos right kkkkruz was born in canada emigrated to a,merica at age ten and his dad came to texas on a student visa attended teks univrsity t in austin gradated in 1961, and bribed agovernment official infulgencio batista arwing dictator in cuba and went to cal;;gary with acollege degree worked inthe oil field in canada marries awhite woman and rafael eduardo cruz comes to america and is apoor economic refugee seeking asylum inamericacause castro is kommunist sovietica well rafel had to have come from a wealthy to have done all that cause texuniversity lonmg horns ciosts alot of money to attend and coming fromcuba is another chunk of money ,nice fairy tale rafael eduardo cruz ala ted kkkkruz

Reply · 2 · Like · August 3 at 7:13am



**Clarence Chamberlain** · Virginia State University

This is proof that God truly has a sense of humor!

Reply · Like · August 20 at 7:07am



**Roberta N. Tuthill** · Beaverton, Oregon

Grateful for Dallas News' pre-election interview with US Sen. Ted Cruz (TX-R), clarifying his dad's student-visa 'escape' from Cuba, found in a web-search! As a Native-Daughter & Commissioned Yellow Rose of Texas transplanted in OR, I'm proud of the Senator's service! Longing for his equivalent to replace both greedy-liberal, regressive so-called 'progressive' OR Senators who voted to sell-out our self-protection Rights to the totalitarian-committed UN! Serving notice of a need to replace both OR Senators in their next reelection bids! What started as a Federation of Sovereign States began its decline with abandonment of the

marked as a violation of sovereign states began to become that abandonment of the States'-Rights Principle, when the 17th Amendment was ratified 4/8/1913. What we have now is a Nationalized Government segueing to a dictatorship, with the essential checks-&-balances system for the Rule of Law over-ridden by flawed-human rule! --Posted by a near 90-year-old double-descendant of American Colonists & Revolution participants. Declaration of Independence complaints against King George the 3rd & the 1776 Parliament are valid against the current intrusive administration, aided & abetted by legislative, judicial, & media collaborators. Recognition of that fact & appropriate response are necessary now!

Reply · 1 · Like · June 23 at 9:56pm



**Ed Hinojosa** · Top Commenter · ,

sure sure roberta and isee vietcong in pink tights

Reply · Like · August 3 at 7:19am



**Sorin Rapan** · Top Commenter · Works at QUICKWAY CARRIERS

Ed Hinojosa you can ignore reality but can not ignore the consequences of ignoring reality.something to think about.

Reply · Like · November 22 at 6:01am



**Sue Mixson** · Paralegal at Allen, Pinnix & Nichols. P.A.

Did he overstay his student visa? What was his father's green card based on? Asylum? Marriage to a US citizen? What??? There has to be some basis for a green card to be issued to an immigrant. You don't just get it because you're a nice person or work hard. What year did he apply and what year did he get it? Those are the questions which need to be answered in order to really understand his father's "immigrant experience." Until those questions are answered, we should assume his father spent some time in the US out of status, overstayed his student status, etc.

Reply · 2 · Like · May 10 at 12:15pm



**Sorin Rapan** · Top Commenter · Works at QUICKWAY CARRIERS

i agree with you up to the last paragraph...it should read"until those questions are answered,we should make no assumptions". the way it reads clearly shows logical fallacy. .

Reply · Like · November 22 at 6:07am



**Sorin Rapan** · Top Commenter · Works at QUICKWAY CARRIERS

and u are a paralegal??? my Lord i feel sorry for your clients.

Reply · Like · November 22 at 6:08am



**Nanci Little** · Top Commenter · Owner at Trademark Animal Talent

wow,, Cruz is proud that his father fought on the same side as Castro? Calls him a 'guerrilla' throwing Molotov cocktails and blowing up buildings. Doesn't Cruz know that he is describing a DOMESTIC TERRORIST? And THIS he and his father are PROUD of? How come if an animal rescuer takes a picture of a suffering animal these days across a fence, the Republicans are the ones who passed the bill that Bush signed into law that applies JAIL TIME to that action and the good Samaritan who only wanted to save a life is LABELED and TREATED and TRIED as a DOMESTIC TERRORIST?! No burning buildings with firebombs, no explosions bring buildings crashing down on peoples' heads... just pictures. Cruz, you SHOULD be ashamed of what your father did. Palin kept touting 'palling around with terrorists' in the 2008 elections even though Obama was but a tiny child when the Ayres' protests re: the Viet Nam war happened (a worthy protest by the way.. standing up for our 58,000 DEAD young men!) .. and Bill Ayres never tried to kill anyone or bring down any buildings.. But you Rs called him a TRAITOR AND A TERRORIST and because decades later Obama 'knew' the man.. he was 'pallin around'. YOU, Mr. Cruz, were SIRENED by a terrorist and have a very close relationship STILL with your father the terrorist.. without even apologizing for the horrible things he DID to his fellow Cubans!

Reply · 6 · Like · February 20 at 7:40pm



**Jose Dominguez**

This message is for SAM McGowan, if you are born outside of the USA and your parents are USA born Americans, they can register your birth certificate to be American just like any of the parents. Additionally, alot of freedom loving Cubans initially were fooled to side with Castro and fight for Castro's cause including the United States of America, until most realized Castro was a liar and held back the fact that he was a communist. Eventually Ted Cruz' father became anti Castro and so did the USA.

Reply · Like · February 20 at 9:09am



**Nanci Little** · Top Commenter · Owner at Trademark Animal Talent

Blowing up buildings? Killing fellow Cubans? Can you spell TERRORIST??

Reply · 11 · Like · February 20 at 7:41pm



**Sorin Rapan** · Top Commenter · Works at QUICKWAY CARRIERS

Nanci Little one man's terrorist another man's patriot.something to think about.

[Reply](#) · [Like](#) · November 22 at 6:03am



**Joseph Santin**

There were two revolutions in Cuba at the same time. One was in what is termed El plano (valley) meaning in the cities, etc., such as by students, etc., and the other in the loma (hills/mountains). Castro fought in the Sierra Maestra mountains in Oriente province, eastern Cuba, under the banner of the July 26th Movement, and others fought in the cities as well as in El Escambray mountain range located in what used to be Las Villas province in central Cuba. Many of those who fought in that region, were later ostracized and eliminated by the Castro regime. That Senator Cruz's father fought against Batista does not necessarily mean he fought with Castro and for Castro. Nor does it mean that his father was a communist sympathizer. Many of those who fought in the Cuban Revolution were later imprisoned, exiled, or executed by Castro, who betrayed the Revolution and retained power by means of force. I wish you people would inform yourselves, instead of continuing to make erroneous assumptions.

[Reply](#) · [1 Like](#) · December 4, 2012 at 9:18pm



**Karen A. Johnson** · Top Commenter

The Teflon effect, or IOKIYAR.

[Reply](#) · [3 Like](#) · February 27 at 7:40pm



**Tena Lester Frith** · Works at Realtor - Taylor Real Estate Group

Cruz himself stated that while his father didn't fight "beside" Castro, he fought on the same side as Castro.

[Reply](#) · [1 Like](#) · August 20 at 10:08am



**Tom Woodward** · Top Commenter · Sunnyvale, California

Tena Lester Frith ... he fought to overthrow the Cuban regime at the time ... same as Castro - my take is that father Cruz and son don't like the way the revolution turned out at the end. I think that most of us can agree that Castro lead Cuba was not a good place to live .. one dictator to another,

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