

**Submission to the Cuba EPU.**  
**April-May 2013.**

**“Caribbean Movement for Peace and Integration.”**  
**(CMPI) Barbados.**

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The Movement was founded on June 2009, at the initiative of the Israel Lovell Foundation, July 26 Movement (Barbados), Cuban Five Justice Committee, Cuban Barbadian Friendship Association, The Barbados Association of Business and Commerce, Cuban Scholarship Committee and African Reparation Inc.

The CMPI includes progressive organization in different Caribbean countries and of diverse political tendencies, religious beliefs and forms of activity which, on the basis of equality and mutual respect for their sovereignty, wish to coordinate their efforts for the best satisfaction of the interest of Caribbean Peoples and to make their contribution to the common ideas of freedom, independence, democracy, friendship, international solidarity and world peace.

The CMPI carries on political, economic and social activity and works in the field of education, sports and culture to further the development of the young generation in the spirit of peace and international friendship and to support the noble principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

In order to achieve these aims, the CMPI operates holding of events and carrying out of regional activities, rendering assistance to initiatives taken by other organizations or in common with them, sponsoring of and practical aid to regional, bilateral and national initiatives and contracts arranged by organizations in different countries, in conformity with their own situation and their own interests.

The CMPI publishes regularly in different languages, the magazine “Caribbean People”, as well as other publications.

## **I. Introduction:**

1. It is an honor to provide with this written contribution to The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Cuba's chapter.
2. The Human Rights Council (HRC) of the United Nations is the unquestionable body to bring the reality of the Cuban people human rights situation.
3. Just after 1959 Cuba conquered their real independence and since that time human rights for all came out as an option the people had before.
4. In his four-hour speech made by the former president of Cuba Fidel Castro in 1956 in his own defense in court against the charges brought against him after leading an attack on the "**Moncada Barracks**", known as "**The history will absolve me**", he mentioned the six biggest problems Cuba faced by that time.
5. "The problem of the land, the problem of industrialization, the problem of housing, the problem of unemployment, the problem of education and the problem of the people's health: these are the six problems we would take immediate steps to solve, along with restoration of civil liberties and political democracy. "
6. Nothing else but this same issues became the program of the Revolution since the very beginning in 1959.
7. Today, Cuba can show to the Americas' and the rest of the world that program of the Revolution became a reality in which the human rights are fully seen as the only guarantee for a people to be truly master on its fate.

## **II. Content.**

8. There is no other option to guarantee the real respect for the Human Rights if there is no a legal base to go through.
9. In the case of Cuba, since 1976 with the proclamation of the first Constitution under the Revolution not only recognizes basic human rights and freedoms but gave them the livelihood needed.
10. If anyone reads the constitution will find that the right to life, liberty along with the right to work, time off and social security are among those guaranteed.
11. Over the years, the governments and the people of Cuba together have worked very hard and have obtained the figures not only in social security

and health care recognized by the U.N. bodies, but in other international ones even under a terrible circumstance which is the US blockade.

12. The people of Cuba can be proud of its performance on the respect for human rights.
13. The first reason is the defense of the Revolution, which is the only guarantee of the human rights and made possible the civil, cultural, economic and, the most important the social rights for everyone.
14. Cuba is a State party of the most important international instruments related with the human rights but is still working to approve and implement updated norms, for example regarding the transfer of land to peasants and other citizens, social security, employment, housing, etc.
15. The world should know that even with the results obtained the people and government of Cuba have been involved in the last five years in a very deep process of transformations to improve their social and economic system.
16. This process has been fully supported by the majority of the Cuban people in the dream of Jose Martí, its founding father to obtain full justice in their country.
17. The Economic and Social Policy Guidelines in 2011, accompanied by more than the 90 % of the people was adopted to update the Cuban economic model, elevate the quality of life of Cubans and is an example of how the Cubans exercise their human rights.
18. In terms of this issue, we would like to express our gratitude in reference to the death sentence moratorium in Cuba.
19. As everybody knows Cuba has been forced to have the death sentence in its penal code.
20. As part of the hostile policy of the government of the United States, undercover and public operations have been implemented to promote campaigns discrediting Cuban authorities, with the aim of disrupting order, inciting violence and creating the image of a supposed climate of destabilization and unruliness in the country which in many cases meant cost of innocent lives.
21. These activities are financed by ultra-rightwing organizations in Miami, backed by the US government, whose declared aim is the destruction of the established political and social system in Cuba.

22. Even in that circumstances in Cuba no death sentence has been passed by the courts since the last UPR report.
23. In April of 2009, the Council of State decided to commute the death penalty and replace it with a 30-year sentence or life imprisonment for any inmates having received the death sentence. The decision was adopted as a sovereign act, in accordance with the humanitarian conduct and ethics of the Cuban Revolution from its beginnings. Today in Cuba there is no longer anyone sentenced to the death penalty.
24. In terms of the cooperation with treaty bodies UN Human Rights Mechanisms, it is important to stresses that Cuba maintains a high level cooperation and interaction.
25. That unequivocal willingness to dialogue on all subjects and with all States, supported by reciprocal respect, sovereign equality and acknowledgement of every people having the right to choose their own political, economic and social system, Cuba has invited to visit the country in more than once important top UN Human Rights officials.
26. In this context, Cuba has presented several reports to human rights treaty bodies like:  
  
The Rights of the Child (2011),  
The Elimination of Racial Discrimination (2011),  
The Committee against Torture (2012),  
Under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2012).
27. Another important issue which we would like to include in this written submission is the so called "Freedom of Religion and Beliefs".
28. The visit of The Pope Benedicto XVI few months ago showed the atmosphere of freedom of religion that we have in Cuba.
29. During The Pope predicaments and homilies the entire world witnessed that millions of Cubans have and exercise their rights to profess a religion.
30. Anyone travel to Cuba and walks around the cities and towns can witness the diversity of religions and churches. There are around 400 religions and religious institutions based on the credo of their membership; they carry out their activities with no interference whatsoever by the State.
31. Our last point in this submission is about the international cooperation of Cuba in different fields (health, education, management of natural disasters.)

32. As a Caribbean organization we have witnessed how Cuba has promoted various cooperation programs and projects in health matters.
33. The Comprehensive Health Program is being developed in 40 countries.
34. Furthermore, Operation "Miracle" is being promoted to return sight to thousands of citizens in the world.
35. From its inception on July 8, 2004 until January of 2012, 2,261,987 surgeries have been performed.
36. In the case of Barbados, more than 300 patients were treated in Cuba with no cost at all.
37. Contingents of Cuban doctors specialized in disaster situations and serious epidemics, continues with its works: The cooperation of Cuba in Haiti I an example which we consider should be highlighted.
38. Since 1998 (many years before the earthquake) 3,774 Cuban collaborators have been at work in Haiti.

### **III. Conclusion.**

39. There is no perfect society and Cuba as part of the international community has still a lot of thing to do in the matter of Human Rights.
40. There is no doubt that the policy of hostility, blockade and aggressions by successive US administrations, the recruitment, financing and use of mercenaries and terrorists at the service of the anti-Cuban US policy which acts against the Cuban people, and the increase of US government funds and means destined to finance the so called "human rights defenders", among others is the most important obstacle in the development of Cuba.
41. The 40 million dollars the Obama Administration has earmarked from 2010 to 2011 fiscal years, to impose a "change of regime" in Cuba is just an example.
42. But Cuba, as small and underdeveloped country is among the few that have a legal and practical sailing and ensures the preservation and exercise of the human rights seen from an unquestionable integrity.