

Clement Payne Movement

Crompton Street
St. Michael
Barbados, West Indies

President: Mr. David Commissiong
Vice President: Mr. Robert "Bobby" Clarke

TO: THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
UNITED NATIONS

The Clement Payne Movement was established in 1987 as a People's organization whose aims was to assist in the development of Barbados and the wider Caribbean to bring about more social justice for the peoples of our area. Our Movement has fought for the abolition of the death penalty in Barbados. We have been able to get prisoners who were condemned to hang, released from the prison. We have been in the forefront of fighting for better conditions in housing, health, culture and education for the people of Barbados and we shall continue to do so.

We have been extremely supportive of the aims and objectives of the Cuban Revolution and have been proud to receive educational assistance from the Cuban Government who trains hundreds of students in a range of fields including medicine, engineering, and sports, among others.

Submission of the “Clement Payne Movement” to the Council of Human Rights on the occasion of Cuba’s EPU- May 2013.

1. During the past fifty years, in spite of the great economic difficulties which the Cuban people have fought to overcome, the Cuban government has given to the Caribbean Peoples without asking for anything in return.
2. It is this background that we of the Clement Payne Movement fully support other Movements around the world demanding that the Human Rights Council of the United Nations consider Cuba’s plights in its fight to continue its course to a better way of life for all peoples.
3. Since 1959, the United States had led an illegal and immoral fight against the Cuban Government and its peoples. For that, over 50 years all of the United States administrations from John Kennedy to Barrack Obama have insisted on a policy of hostility and aggression and they have continued to blockade Cuba causing it heavy economic distress. Cuba has borne this immoral position by the United States with dignity.
4. The present Obama administration has not seen it fit to discuss with the Cuban Government the need for dialogue and to bring about a condition of normalcy which would allow, at least the position that exist between the OAS States with the exception of the United States of America, the position between the European Union and Canada to be discussed and problems which exist solved in a diplomatic manner.
5. The United States administration set aside 40 million dollars during the period 2010 and 2011, through the USAID and the State Department to attempt to bring about change of regime in Cuba. One would have thought that the United States which legitimized its diplomatic positions with Russia, China and Vietnam would have reached the maturity to do the same with Cuba.
6. The example of Cuba throughout the world is seen as exemplary. The Cuban Government has made great sacrifices in helping most of the countries of Africa, Central America, South America and the Caribbean with serious medical assistance and they ask for nothing in return. One of the shining examples is the aid that Cuba has given to the poorest country in the world: Haiti, by providing doctors, medicines and other assistance to its people without asking for anything in return. They have also sent over 3,700 Cuban collaborators to work in Haiti as teachers, nurses from the early 1990s until the present.
7. Cuba has been a shining light to countries in Africa from Ethiopia in the North to Namibia and South Africa in the South.

8. The Cuban administration's example on Human Rights can be verified by the millions of people from all corners of the world who have visited Cuba and seen a country where there is no fear of walking around all hours of the night and early morning, where alcoholism is exceedingly low. Cuba has become a shining example of real Human Rights for the rest of the world.
9. The Cuban Government and people went through serious financial problems after the fall of the Soviet Union but those hard times showed the strength of the Cuban Government and people; they did not give up but fought to create new economic and social models which would allow the Cuban people to move further forward. As a result, the quality of life for the Cubans today has given them a lifestyle that is far superior in real terms to the United States and most of Central and South America in this hemisphere.
10. But arriving at their present position, all of the Cuban people came together in groups in all the provinces and discussed for a number of years, their way forward to alleviate some of the hardships caused by their economic woes. It was only after these discussions with all of the Cuban people, that they eventually arrived at the present norms which have made life better for them. They have become stronger in the area of Women's Rights and Gender Discrimination. They have also understood the differences in sexual orientation and have implemented laws in those areas.
11. The Cuban Government did not take a page from the United States, Europe nor from China, but created their own model from their internal discussions. Before these discussions, some peasants owned small portions of land but with the changes, land has been made available to not only the peasants but to private businesses.
12. In spite of the hardships which could cause human upheaval, Cuba had declared a moratorium on the death penalty and today the death penalty no longer exist.
13. Cuba's Human Right position should be used as a template for the rest of the world.