

Cyprus – Cuba Friendship Association

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Written submission of Cuba's Universal Periodic Review

By Cyprus - Cuba Friendship Association

1. Cyprus – Cuba Friendship Association (a Non Governmental Organization), established in the decade of '70 with the aim, among others, to promote the friendship and solidarity of Cyprus and Cuban peoples in the process of their development and the betterment of their societies, through exchanging views, ideas and experiences on different aspects of life.
2. In the framework of the Cuba's Universal Periodic Review we would like, as Association, to comment on several facts on the development of the Cuban society in this contemporary world, and express our opinion as how the international community should behave towards the Republic of Cuba.
3. Throughout the years of our establishment, on various occasions we, as Association, expressed our solidarity through various events to support Cuban people in order to ensure their true independence from the outside threads, which still exists and which is an unfair attitude towards this country.
4. In this contemporary world not only the Cuban people but everyone living in the country enjoy civil, political, cultural, economic and social rights, based on democratic principles, simultaneously struggling, with hand in hand with other countries, to ensure peace all over the world which is a basic element to achieve further development.
5. The Government of the Republic of Cuba has continued to move through a process of permanent transformations to improve the socialist system, all the national sectors, endorsed and built by its people with the aim of advancing towards a society with a fairer distribution and reallocation of its national income.
6. Again, we would like to underline the fact that all the achievements could be at a higher level if the blockade and aggressions from outside against Cuba were absent. These are serious obstacle to the full enjoyment of human rights and the basic freedoms of all Cubans.
7. Also it is important to note that on international level Cuba has continuously maintained cooperation with United Nations human rights procedures and mechanisms of non-discriminatory nature and of universal application proving its international commitment against this principle. Need not to mention, one by one, that Cuba participates in numerous organs of the UN and other international

- institutions and entities acting in a positive way and is well recognized by other countries.
8. It is true and in many cases it was proven, that Cuba is very sensitive as far as the human rights are concerned. Cuba insists with passion and expresses its will for a genuine dialogue about human rights on a basis of respect for its full dignity and sovereignty. Cuba has fulfilled the recommendations arising from the first cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in 2009.
 9. Another field that deserves mention is the international solidarity, which is applied by Cuba towards developing countries, is the assistance that is provided voluntarily in the field of health and education.
 10. We are sure that the communication play of propaganda is constantly unfair towards the Republic of Cuba. Political-media campaigns against Cuba promoted with false statements and articles with lies, nationally and internationally by foreign countries (mainly by the USA) lead to the distortion of the true situation in the country. It is unfair.
 11. A very important issue we would like to raise is the parallel fact, that of military bases in both countries, Cuba and Cyprus. In Cyprus (a country under the Turkish military occupation of 37.4% of the country's territory, since 1974), the colonial administration leftover the British Base – military. The USA Military Base of Guantanamo exists in Cuba. Both Bases create problems and undermine the peace and stability in both countries.
 12. Another humanitarian issue is that of the Cuban five. The demand is their immediate release. Until these men are freed, they must have the right of regular visits to all the prisoners' relatives.
 13. We hope that the above presentation will be taken positively into consideration during the upcoming Universal Periodic Review.

For the Cyprus-Cuba Friendship Association,

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Chairman