



**ΠΑΓΚΥΠΡΙΟ ΣΥΜΒΟΥΛΙΟ ΕΙΡΗΝΗΣ
KIBRIS BARIŞ KONSEYİ
CYPRUS PEACE COUNCIL**

**Written submission on Cuba's Universal Periodic Review,
By Cyprus Peace Council**

1. Cyprus Peace Council, a non Governmental Organization, was founded in 1949 and is one of the founding members of the World Peace Council, which was established in order to fight against the risk of a Third World War; even a nuclear war. The Cyprus Peace Council is member of the Secretariat of the Word Peace Council.
2. In the 63 years that have lapsed, the Cyprus Peace Council wrote history with mobilizations, signature-gathering campaigns, 7 Peace Marches and active participation in International Conferences, anti-imperialist events and Congresses on Peace.
3. Cyprus Peace Council is acknowledged by the UN as a Non Governmental Organization (N.G.O.) with participation rights in special international meetings organised by the UN. Cyprus Peace Council has bilateral relations with peace movements in several countries of the world. It develops its collective relations within the framework of the World Peace Council as well as the European Network for Peace and Human Rights, where our Movement maintains a position in the Coordinating Committee.

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4. As Cyprus Peace Council we would like to contribute on the issue of Cuba's Universal Periodic Review. We feel strongly the need to add on this issue our own position based as well on our relation with UN but also based on our warm sincere interest and concern for Latin America where Peace and Human Rights have been severely violated during past decades but even and now in some countries of this Continent.
5. Our written submission is based on our own first hand experiences from several times that we have visited Cuba for various reasons and purposes. Moreover, is based and to our continuous study and research on Cuban example and in various contacts we had through the years with many Cubans inside and outside Cuba, people from a variety of social and political background.
6. We strongly believe that Cuba is a Nation that resists and develops under the most difficult conditions imposed by the strangling blockade imposed by US Administration for more than five decades. Within present conditions of the severe global economic crisis that has destroyed big western economies to manage to maintain your standard of living in a country of Latin America that is under a multi decade blockade is a triumph. As triumph was the overthrow of Dictatorship in late 1950's. Furthermore, the economic amendments decided by Cuba and its people in 2011 have created the preconditions for elevating the quality of life for Cubans and overcoming the difficulties from the ongoing global economic crisis and the unfair and hostile blockade against the Country.
7. The victory of the Cuban Revolution has eliminated racial, religious and gender discriminations and launched the level of security, welfare, health and education to such levels that surpassed many developed western Countries. Cuba's present scientific and technical potential is already yielding fruit. Worth mentioned is the fact that Cuba an illiteracy free country and education is of high level, is public and completely free for all Cubans. The UNESCO Report on lifelong learning for all (2011) has placed Cuba at number 14 in the World in their Education for all rating (IDE). Additionally, Cuba provides free of charge public health to all Cubans and furthermore has achieved the lowest rate of infant mortality (4.9) in Latin America and in Caribbean.
8. Cuba has amazing results also in Sports and culture, two sectors that are as well literally equally all people's right and not privilege for the few as it is in most of the world. Cuba's great results in these sectors are more than obvious and cannot be hidden by any malicious propaganda.

9. On the workers' rights and working conditions we mention that Cuba has ratified 88 ILO Conventions. Workers' fundamental rights and those of the unions in Cuba are not only included in the Constitution but in the Labor Code in force and complementary legislation ensures full exercise of those rights. This is something that derives from the whole ideological philosophy of the Cuban State.
10. We would like also to underline the fact that Cuba is a State party to numerous international instruments the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination; Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women; Convention on the Rights of the Child; Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, on the Sale of Children , Child Prostitution and Child Pornography; Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Participation of Children in Armed Conflict; International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid; UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education; Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries. Furthermore, in February of 2009, it ratified the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance. More recently it has adhered to: the International Convention for the Protection of Persons from Enforced Disappearance (February 2, 2009); ILO Recommendation 200 concerning HIV and AIDS and the world of work (February 13, 2012); the UN Convention against Corruption (July 28, 2008).
11. Cuba has always shown the greatest level of cooperation and interaction with United Nations human rights procedures and mechanisms of non-discriminatory nature and of universal application. To support our argument we call upon the presented by Cuba 3 reports to human rights treaty bodies, namely: the second periodic report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child (2011), the combined reports of the 14th to 18th to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (2011) and the combined second, third and fourth reports to the Committee Against Torture (2012).
12. We call upon also another 3 reports presented by Cuba for corresponding consideration, namely: the seventh and eighth combined periodic reports by virtue of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (2010), the initial report by virtue of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the participation of children in armed conflict (2011) and the initial report by virtue of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2012).
13. Additionally, at the same time where Cuba is being under continuous prosecution by US, we cannot omit to refer to the issue of Death Sentence that is still valid in US and has not been applied by Cuban Courts, since April 2009.
14. We would like also to underline Cuba's diachronic great contribution to the under-developed countries in the fields of education and health,

where thousands of Cuban doctors and teachers voluntarily have offered their priceless services to educate and to heal people.

15. Coming from a country as Cyprus that suffers from foreign interventions and imperialist manipulations, we denounce the efforts of certain Countries to undermine a sovereign Country only because this Country has decided a different way of social and economic development. As a country that has the 37% of its land under foreign occupation, we denounce the illegal occupation of Guantanamo by USA. The military occupation threatens the security of the people of Guantanamo, diminishes their standard of living, depriving them from their lands and natural recourses. As we denounce the colonial leftover of British Bases that exist in Cyprus, we denounce as well the US Military Base of Guantanamo Cuba. Both are elements that undermine peace and stability in Cyprus, Cuba and in the broader region around these two Countries.

16. We believe that the blockade imposed to Cuba aims to the economic exhaustion of the Country and only, thus standard of living for Cubans and Human Rights are threatened and violated not by the Cuban State but by those that chasing Cuba on the pretext of Human Rights violation. Moreover the hostility and aggressiveness of USA and EU expressed with the sponsoring or encouraging of subversive acts against Cuba form a well organized plan that literally disturbs national stability of the Country, and violates directly or indirectly the human right in the Country.

17. For all the above reasons we strongly support the case of Cuba in relation with the upcoming Universal Periodic Review.

Nicosia, October 8th

**For the General Council
Of Cyprus Peace Council,**



**Christos K. Kourtellaris
General Secretary**