



DOMINICA GUILD OF CUBAN GRADUATES



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THE UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (2nd CYCLE)

CUBA

This Document reviews the impact of the international media's negative reporting of Cuba's actions as regards that Country's adherence to signed protocols on Human Rights, presents relevant Articles of Cuba's Constitution, and discusses the impact of the Economic Blockade enforced by the Government of the United States on Cuba's efforts to achieve stated Human Rights goals.

INTRODUCTION

The Dominica Guild of Cuban Graduates was established in 1987 by Dominican graduates who pursued higher education in the Republic of Cuba.

Members of this organization are all beneficiaries of free education at the professional level as a gift from the Republic of Cuba to the Commonwealth of Dominica. Among us are Doctors, Veterinarians, Dental Surgeons, Foresters, Agronomists, Architects, Civil Engineers, Electrical Engineers, Lawyers, Economists, Accountant, Linguists, Plant Pathologists, Agricultural Economists, Physical Training and Sports Specialists, Meteorological Specialists, Nurses, Dental Technicians, Lab Technicians, etc.

Over the past thirty-three (33) years, our country, Dominica, has obtained through the generosity of the Government and People of the Republic of Cuba, a well prepared cadre of specialists who are found in every sphere in the commanding heights of the development process of the Country.

We have lived among the people of Cuba and we can bear witness to their enjoyment of a dignified standard of living and a high level of human rights.

The Role of the State in Cuban Society

*As stated in **Article 3** of the Constitution of Cuba ...sovereignty lies in the people, from who originates all the power of the State...and in **Article 6** ...the Young Communist League, the organization of Cuba's vanguard youth, has the recognition and encouragement of the state in its main duty of promoting the active participation of young people in the tasks of building socialism and adequately preparing the youth to be conscientious citizens capable of assuming ever greater responsibilities for the benefit of our society...and in **Article 7**...the Cuban socialist state recognizes and stimulates the social and mass organizations...and in **Article 8**...The state recognizes, respects and guarantees freedom of religion...In the Republic of Cuba, religious institutions are separate from the state...The different beliefs and religions enjoy the same consideration...and in **Article 9**...The state: **a)** carries out the will of the working people and channels the efforts of the nation in the construction of socialism;...maintains and defends the integrity and the sovereignty of the country;...guarantees the liberty and the full dignity of man, the enjoyment of his rights, the exercise and fulfilment of his duties and the integral development of his personality;...consolidates the ideology and the rules of living together and of conduct proper of a society free from the exploitation of man by man;...protects the constructive work of the people and the property and riches of the socialist nation;...directs in a planned way the national economy;...assures the educational, scientific, technical and cultural progress of the country;...**b)** as the power of the people and for the people, guarantees...that every man or woman, who is able to work, have the opportunity to have a job with which to contribute to the good of society and to the satisfaction of individual needs;...that no disabled person be left without adequate mean of subsistence;...that no sick person be left without medical care;...that no child be left without schooling, food and clothing;...that no young person be left without the opportunity to study;...that no one be left without access to studies, culture*

and sports;...e) works to achieve that no family be left without a comfortable place to live...

The Human Development Index.

Each year since 1990 Human Development Report has published the Human Development Index (HDI) which was introduced as an alternative to conventional measures of national development, such as level of income and the rate of economic growth. The HDI represents a push for a broader definition of well-being and provides a composite measure of three basic dimensions of human development: health, education and income. Cuba's HDI is 0.776, which gives the country a rank of 51 out of 187 countries with comparable data. The HDI of Latin America and the Caribbean as a region increased from 0.582 in 1980 to 0.731 today, placing Cuba above the regional average. The HDI trends tell an important story both at the national and regional level and highlight the very large gaps in well-being and life chances that continue to divide our interconnected world.

Despite an economic embargo / blockade Cuba has managed to maintain a high HDI.

Year	Cuba	High human development	Latin America and the Caribbean	World
2011	0.776	0.741	0.731	0.682
2010	0.773	0.739	0.728	0.679
2009	0.770	0.734	0.722	0.676
2008	0.767	0.733	0.720	0.674
2007	0.759	0.728	0.715	0.670
2006	0.745	0.721	0.708	0.664
2005	0.725	0.716	0.703	0.660
2000	0.681	0.687	0.680	0.634
1995	0.646	0.662	0.650	0.613
1990	0.677	0.648	0.624	0.594
1985	0.665	0.630	0.604	0.576

CUBA'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CHALLENGES

1. Cuba has promoted various cooperation programs and projects in health matters. Dominica has a cooperation agreement with Cuba that has guaranteed Cuban Health Care professionals working in the Hospitals and Health Centers all over the State. Additionally Cuba has contributed significantly to Dominica's health infrastructure with the construction of a nursing school, a diagnostic center and an intensive care unit.
2. Thousands of Dominicans have undergone eye surgeries in Cuban Hospitals free of charge, through the operation, "Miracle", where eye-sight has been restored to the blind.
3. The Cuban Medical Cooperation in Haiti is exemplary. Between 2005 and 2011, the Latin American School of Medicine has graduated 9,960 Medical Doctors from 58 countries.
4. Cuba is an example to the other countries in the Latin American and Caribbean Region and throughout the developing world in the implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements that it has signed, adhered to and ratified.
5. Cuba is respected worldwide for its efforts at implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and Drought, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.
6. Cuba is an example to the world in the sphere of Natural Disaster Management. Every year, Cuba is hit by several hurricanes and severe weather events, but the Cuban authorities ensure that there is minimum loss of life and property because of the experiences they have accumulated in the area of forecasting and preparedness, evacuation of members of the population at risk. Not only the lives of human beings are protected but also those of live-stock and pets.

7. Cuba has ratified eighty-eight (88) ILO Conventions. Workers fundamental rights and those of the Unions in Cuba are not only included in the Constitution but in the Labour Code in force and complementary legislation ensures full exercise of these rights.
8. Cuba ensures universal access free of charge to public health. Cuba has the lowest infant mortality rate in Latin America and the Caribbean at 4.9 even though it is the only country subjected to an economic blockade.
9. The UNESCO Report on Lifelong Learning for All acknowledges Cuba to have a high educational development and is placed at number fourteen (14) in the world in the Education for All Rating.
10. It is the professional opinion of our group that the ongoing policy of hostility, blockade and aggressions by successive United States administrations and the illegal occupation of a portion of Cuba's National Territory on which a US Naval Base (Guantanamo) threatens the sovereignty of the Cuban people and their desire to enjoy a peaceful homeland. 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 in Cuba also interfere with the Cuban people desire to their freedom.
11. The Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (Libertad) Act of 1996 (Helms-Burton Act) a law in the United States which includes a wide variety of provisions intended to bring about "a peaceful transition to a representative democracy and market economy in Cuba" imposes International Sanctions against the Cuban Government. Economic embargo, any non-U.S. company that deals economically with Cuba can be subjected to legal action and that company's leadership can be barred from entry into the United States. Sanctions may be applied to non-U.S. companies trading with Cuba. This means that internationally operating companies have to choose between Cuba and the U.S., which is a much larger market. We consider this atrocious law and other similar laws a

fragrant violation of international law, an act of aggression against the sovereignty of the Cuban state and total disregard of the human rights of the Cuban People.

CONCLUSION

It is our firm belief that Cuba state and the Cuban people have been subjected to acts of aggression and violation for much too long and deserve the right to chart their own destiny. We call on the United Nations Organizations to take drastic measures to ensure the implementation of resolutions passed at the General Assembly since 1991 for the past twenty (20) years calling on the USA to end the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by USA against Cuba for the past fifty (50) years.

Cuba, in keeping with the protocols enshrined in its Constitution, has fulfilled the requests arising from the first cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in 2009. *This testament to the Cuban State's commitment to the betterment of social conditions under nationally accepted philosophy of Socialism.*