

HUMANISTIC SOLIDARITY ASSOCIATION (Saint Lucia-Cuba)

THE UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (2nd CYCLE)

Cuba

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The Humanistic Solidarity Association (Saint Lucia-Cuba) was officially launched on 25th August, 2005. Of several aims, one of the most critical is the dissemination of information pertinent to the Cuban reality. It remains (in Saint Lucia) a single voice in a media landscape dominated by anti-Cuba rhetoric originating from or influenced by US policy toward Cuba.

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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 discussion of Human Rights and Cuba's adherence to international agreements on that issue is heavily influenced by its main antagonist, the United States.

1. Public perception is critical in the assessment of a Country's adherence to international agreements on Human Rights. *It is a fact that public perception is largely influenced by the **Corporate Media** which, if not in support of the political and economic policies pursued by the Country under scrutiny, and because of its allegiance to an antagonist country, uses its dominance of visual and audio media to deny the reality of life in (in this case) Cuba.*
2. The effect of **Corporate Media** coverage of has Cuba left an erroneous impression of a country run by a merciless dictatorship, a society deeply divided, extremely poor, of a people bereft of political power...
3. The extra-territorial nature of US aggression against Cuba is itself a violation of international human rights agreements as it affects the effective deliverance of services in line with ratified agreements such as health care, education, freedom of association, etc.
4. Yet, in spite of the more-than-five-decade-old *irrational* Economic Blockade enforced by the United States against Cuba, this Country has still been able to achieve, *against the wishes of its larger neighbour*, admirable standards of social existence and interaction...

The Role of the State in Cuban Society

5. 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;...c) works to achieve that no family be left without a comfortable place to live...

6. The protocols enshrined in the aforementioned Articles of the Cuba Constitution are an unambiguous statement rejecting social milieu which existed during the decades leading up to the success of the Cuba Revolution. Evidence of successful adherence to the protocols can be found in the international recognition of the subject Country's high standards in deliverance of Universal Education and Healthcare (to mention 2 of many) to its nationals – a standard achieved despite a devastating **economic blockade** enforced by the antagonistic US government.
7. The Cuban State, through its system of *participatory* democracy, has been able to resist all attempts at destabilization largely because of a profound sense of *belonging* and an unshakeable commitment to National Independence **and** the Cuba Revolution.
8. Since 2009, the Cuban State has embarked on a series programs designed to improve the efficiency of the State apparatus, with particular awareness of the effect of the downturn in the world economy and the negative impact such can have on its own GDP.
9. The devastating impact of the US Blockade against the *sovereign* State of Cuba is double-edged as it results in the denial of basic human rights to its own (US) citizens, such as *the freedoms of association and movement, denial of effective medical care, denial of access to quality education*, among others. But it also impacts Cuba with regard to the deliverance of efficient, timely, and cost effective to, especially, its children (for instance, those suffering from congenital heart disease), a situation of which the US government is undoubtedly aware...
10. Despite the Blockade, Cuban society has continued to progress in critical interactive activities such as Arts and Sports, care for the Elderly and the Disabled, freedom of Religion (with all being treated equally), and other social interaction necessary for the development of a fair society.

Conclusion

The universally condemned, illegal, counterproductive Economic Blockade maintained against the Republic of Cuba, though costly to the State, has failed in its in its purpose. The demonization of Cuba, through lies spread via the *corporate media* and veiled and not so veiled threats directed at other States through its strength as the world's largest economy *and* only super power not prevented Cuba from sharing it's human resource to the benefit of the world's disadvantaged...including those in the United States (but they were denied by their own government – the Katrina disaster)

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.*