



JAMAICA CUBA FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION

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Dear Sir/Madam, Please see attached our submission to the UNOCHR Universal Periodic Review (second circle) Of Human Rights in Cuba 16th session May/June 2013

Cuba despite one of the most pernicious and genocidal blockade imposed on any state in our modern era by the government of the United States of America, continues to honour its commitment both nationally and internationally in upholding the highest standards and loftiest tenets on Human Rights as enunciated by the United Nations.

This has been evidenced since the triumph of their revolution in 1959 which allowed for the full enjoyment of universal human rights.

The right to life and liberty which is the basic right of any individual is enshrined in their constitution and is given concrete expression by Cuba's effort in providing employment, the right to food as a necessity for life.

In addition to providing free medical care and education at all levels. Access to housing and other social amenities are also given priority attention in the holistic development of the Cuban man/woman

It is this deep and unshakeable commitment to its people, which as seen this sovereign state recording in 2011, the lowest infant mortality rate in the Latin American and Caribbean Region of 4.9 and a maternal mortality of 40.6 per 100,000 which stacks up against the best in the world.

UNESCO's report on Life-Long Learning for All(2011) accords Cuba number 14 in the world ranking of states who have a high educational development particularly as it relates to Education for All rate (IDE)

Cuba is perfect example of a state which holds the "brotherhood of man" to its highest ideals as out of their meager resources, they have been involved in various cooperation agreements and projects in health in over 40 countries. In particular their "Miracle Eye programme has since its beginning in 2004 until January 2012 has seen over 2,600,000 surgeries been performed.

The Henry Reeves international contingent which is comprised of 5,490 doctors specially trained for disaster and epidemic situations, have provided assistance to more than 3,000,000

victims and since 1998 3,774 members of this contingent have been on the ground in performing exemplary service to the people of our sister nation Haiti.

On the education side the Latin American School of Medicine(ELAM) has graduated over 9,950 doctors between 2005- 2011. Other health professional in 11 countries have also been trained.

Pound for Pound its safe to say that no other country in the world comes close to Cuba in this area of human endeavor

Cuba continues to maintain a good record with the United Nations regarding matters of human rights and I will highlight areas as a case in point.

Whether its in the area of the Right to Life and Liberty and Personal Security which since April 2009 all death penalties have been commuted to 30 year sentences or life imprisonment which translates to mean in practical terms that there is no longer the death penalty in Cuba.

In the area of Freedom of Religious belief and Expression of Association and Peaceful Assembly and the Right to participate in Public and Political Life, in the case of religion for example, approximately 400 religions and institutions are able to conduct their activities without political interference from the state..

We must however draw the distinction though on the political side between the legitimate protests of the people of one sort or the other and when citizens are financed by a foreign powers and ore institutions to undermine or destabilize a sovereign state in the furtherance of nebulous ‘ human rights’

This is a situation where no self –respecting country would tolerate especially the United States of America

Sincerely
Trevor G. Brown
Executive Member
Jamaica Cuba Friendship Association