

Universal Periodic Review

Republic of Cuba

NGO Submission June 2012

Job title: Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

Country under review the Republic of Cuba

Submission of the Namibia-Cuba Friendship Association

Submitted to the U.N. Higher Commissioner for Human Rights

September 11th, 2012

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Namibia-Cuba Friendship Association is a non-profit and non-governmental organization registered under section 21 of the company law in the republic of Namibia.
- B. The Association is formed by former Namibian students to Cuba and has a broader membership base across the country.
- C. Among others, its objectives are to promote and protect the relationship between the people of Cuba and Namibia.
- D. Namibia-Cuba Friendship Association stands in defense of the basic human rights as enshrined in the Namibian constitution.

II. BACKGROUND AND FRAMEWORK

- E. Namibia-Cuba Friendship Association hereby presents its first Universal Periodic Review (UPR) report to the UN Higher Commissioners for human Rights (UNHCHR) in the context of the organization commitment to protect and defend the universal human rights.

- F. The Association undertakes to uphold an unwavering contribution to build a just and fear world, to fight for and protect the principles of basic human rights and to consistently call for a just world where the rights of the individual, people and nations as well as their dignity are respected and upheld.
- G. Cuba and its people have the right to self-determination; protection of its territorial sovereignty, thereby securing democratic participation for its people without external interference.
- H. The principle of human rights forms the fundamental cornerstone for all democratic process.

III. PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

- I. The Triumph of the Revolution in Cuba permitted the Cuban people to attain their true independence and the full universal enjoyment of all human rights for all.
- J. The Cuban people have continued vindicating and defending the Revolution that made possible the full enjoyment of civil, political, cultural, economic and social rights of everyone in the country. All Cubans continue to ensure their rights, free self-determination, development, peace and a fair, democratic and equitable international order.
- K. From 2009 until 2012, Cuba has continued to move through a process of permanent and profound transformations to improve the socialist system, endorsed and built by its people with the aim of advancing towards a society that is fairer day by day, free and more independent, acting in solidarity, equitable and productive.
- L. The policy of hostility, blockade and aggressions by successive United States administrations against Cuba has been a serious obstacle to the full enjoyment of human rights and the basic freedoms of all Cubans, including their rights to life, peace, free self-determination and development. The most serious aspect of that policy is that it violates the most elementary rights of the Cuban people.
- M. Cuba has always maintained a high level of cooperation with United Nations human rights procedures and mechanisms of non-discriminatory nature and of universal application.
- N. Cuba has fulfilled the recommendations arising from the first cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in 2009. It is clear to all, that Cuba has always been ready to participate in frank and genuine dialogue about human rights on a basis of mutual respect and respect for its full dignity and sovereignty. It is also of note that Cuba has accepted a high number of recommendations in the first UPR cycle.

- O. The unfair and malicious political-media campaigns against Cuba promoted by the United States are ignorant about the human rights achievements of the country and have a negative bearing on the UN human rights instruments. The US government funds and guides individuals to commit illegal acts in Cuba and, for this purpose, it urges them to undermine and abuse official UN human rights mechanisms and procedures.

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS

- P. For the UN Higher Commissioner for Human Rights and the international communities to allow and support Cuba process of permanent and profound transformations, toward improvement of the socialist system that is endorsed and built by its people with aim to advance toward a society that is fairer.
- Q. For a complete and unconditional cessation of the policy of hostility, the blockade and all types of aggression by the United States.
- R. For the UN Higher Commissioner for Human Rights and the international communities; mainly the United State to acknowledge the high level of cooperation that Cuba has maintained with the UNHCHR procedures and mechanism
- S. For the immediate ending of the unfair and malicious political-media campaigns that is promoted and funded by the United States against Cuba and its people.