

**SUBMISSION FOR THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW OF CUBA
MAY 2013**

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1. Since we deem that culture and arts are strongly related to the issue of human rights, Nazım Hikmet Cultural Center Ankara (NHKM) is honored to share its ideas about cultural and artistic policies of Cuba before its universal periodic review of takes place in May 2013.
2. NHKM points out that from the first days of the socialist revolution, culture and national identity has become an important focus for the Cuban state. Arts and culture have become part of the educational system and daily life. People's access to arts and culture has been guaranteed with the Constitution. Article 9b and Article 39 of the Constitution guarantee free access to culture. Article 43 of the Constitution guarantees equal access to cultural centers.
3. It is worldwide observed that the Cuban state encourages and supports artistic creation. Even artists at the remotest part of the country have the opportunity for self-expression and artistic creation with the subventions of the state. The "muraleando" project and "Mision del Alma" are only two examples of popular participation in artistic creation in Cuba.
4. However, as also emphasized in the Resolution 65/6 of the United Nations General Assembly in July 2011, "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States of America against Cuba", the embargo also makes cultural life in Cuba vulnerable. Culture as one of the inevitable elements for human rights is endangered due to restrictions imposed by the aggressive US embargo on artistic intellectual exchange with foreign artists and cultural institutions as well as limited access to artistic materials in international markets.
5. As mentioned in the report to Resolution 65/6 of the United Nations General Assembly in July 2011, the impact on the cultural sector represents 14,913,300 US dollars, the majority of which represents lost revenue from the exportation of goods and services, relocation to other markets, additional transportation and insurance costs, and adverse monetary-financial effects.
6. On November 3, 2010, the US Department of the Treasury informed the Center for Cuban Studies in New York that it would not renew its license to carry out cultural exchange programs with Cuban institutions.
7. The ARTEX S.A. Company, which sells records and copyrights and offers recording services, has been adversely affected and is prohibited from selling albums during concerts by Cuban artists in the United States, representing a conservative estimated loss of 150,000 US dollars.



8. The National Council of Cultural Heritage cannot access to software related to new mapping and digital information technologies such as Google Earth, Mapinfo and Arcview; nor can it purchase didactic, audiovisual and bibliographic materials or accessories to setup specialized art workshops and labs.
9. The Cuban Institute of Cinematographic Arts and Industry (ICAIC) has been negatively impacted due to the impossibility of working with US companies dedicated to advertising in airlines, and the tourism, art, culture and sports sectors. The impact is estimated at 220,000 US dollars.
10. As a result of the blockade, the Cuban cinematographic industry has not been able to buy materials, spare parts and pieces of equipment, such as film stock and chemical products for the ICAIC Cinematographic Lab from the United States; as well as accessories for cinematographic equipment, licenses, patents and brands, such as THX, Dolby, MAC, Avid, Toons and Scenarist, for audiovisual postproduction processes.
11. Compared with even the highest income countries, cultural creativity and individual freedoms count at higher levels in Cuba. NHKM Ankara would like to reiterate hereby that it appreciates Cuban cultural and artistic policies for their contribution to the improvement of human rights.