

Rock Around the Blockade



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**For the attention of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights:
contribution on CUBA for the review April-May 2013.**

Statement from Rock Around the Blockade, Britain.

1) Rock Around the Blockade is a British organisation that actively campaigns in solidarity with the Cuban revolution, demands an end to the inhumane US blockade of Cuba, the closure of the Guantanamo Bay prison and US Naval base which illegally occupies Cuba's territory, and for the release of the Cuban 5 who remain imprisoned in the US for their efforts to preserve lives and prevent terrorist attacks on Cuba.

2) Cuba has an excellent Human Rights record. Chapter VII of Cuba's constitution 'Fundamental rights, duties and guarantees' sets out guarantees of human rights and freedoms in line with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. These human rights are actively pursued, including the right to life, liberty and inviolability and integrity of the person; the right to work with rest and leisure and to social security. In addition Cuba has an outstanding commitment to ensuring its citizen's basic needs are met, guaranteeing free healthcare and education up to and including university level to all. Cuba also ensures that its citizens are guaranteed a basic basket of food necessary to promote good nutrition.

3) Cuba participates in many international human rights instruments including the Convention on the Right of the Child, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, the International Convention on the Elimination of All

Forms of Racial Discrimination and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance. Additionally in 2008 Cuba signed the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural rights. Since the Revolution in 1959, torture has been abolished and there has not been a single case of disappearance or extrajudicial execution in Cuba, except in the illegally occupied US naval base at Guantanamo Bay.

4) Cuba has consistently demonstrated commitment to the preservation of human life through its internationalist health and education projects. Since the 1960 earthquake in Chile, 28,422 Cuban health workers have worked in 37 Latin American countries, 31,181 in 33 African countries, and 7,986 in 24 Asian countries. Throughout a period of four decades, Cuba sent 67,000 health workers to structural cooperation programs, usually for at least two years, in 94 countries, an average of 3,350 health workers working abroad every year between 1960 and 2000. In addition the Latin American school of Medicine in Havana has provided free medical training to over 20,000 students from 110 countries.

5) Cuba has maintained this excellent commitment to the lives of its citizens and oppressed people of the world despite the continuing US economic, commercial and financial blockade of Cuba which has cost the country more than \$975 billion and constitutes a violation of the United Nations Charter and all norms of international law.

6) Rock Around the Blockade continues to campaign in Britain in solidarity with socialist Cuba and upholds the example that Cuba sets around the world.