



SOCIALIST FORUM OF GHANA (SFG)

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ABOUT THE SFG

The Socialist Forum of Ghana (SFG) was established 10 years ago in Accra, the capital of the Republic of Ghana as a forum for the discussion of local and international issues by left leaning organisations and individuals. Its main activities have included the organisation of public fora on local and international issues throughout the country, the setting up of film clubs, the publication of books and booklets, running of a library and the planning and organisation of events of solidarity with countries facing foreign aggression and sabotage.

We hereby submit our views on Cuba to the Universal Periodic Review.

Warmest Regards,

Kyeretwie Opoku

Convener.

SFG's VIEWS ON CUBA

Over the last 10 years, the Socialist Forum of Ghana (SFG) has paid particular attention to the human rights situation in the Republic of Cuba and is deeply encouraged by the fact that Cuba has always maintained meaningful co-operation with UN agencies responsible for monitoring the situation in that country. In addition Cuba has strenuously adhered to declarations on the human, social and economic rights of peoples. It has fulfilled the recommendations arising from the first cycle of the Universal Periodic Review in 2009.

In our view, the Cuban revolution of January 1959 aimed at freeing the Cuban people from the grips of dictatorship and foreign imposition. Since then, the revolution under the leadership of the Communist Party of Cuba has guaranteed the rights of Cubans to free speech, association, worship, employment and access to social services such as education and health.

Indeed, Cuba has been so successful in guaranteeing the social and economic rights of its citizens that it is now extending substantial assistance to third world countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and elsewhere. In Ghana Cuba provides more than 200 medical personnel each year to work mainly in the rural communities. It is working on a malaria eradication project and has sent teachers to help guarantee the right of the Ghanaian people to education at different levels.

The SFG believes that the biggest obstacle to the efforts of the Cuban Government and people to promote human rights is the aggressive posture and deeds of the United States of America.

The USA's illegal economic and financial blockade of Cuba, has prevented the Island nation from getting essential supplies of medicines which would have enabled it to manage and cure citizens afflicted by all diseases. Terrorist activities sponsored by the United States of America have also undermined the rights of Cubans to life, peace, self-determination and development.

The Socialist Forum of Ghana (SFG) urges all countries, groups and forces interested in the human rights situation in Cuba to mount pressure on the United States of America to end its illegal blockade of Cuba and the sponsoring of terrorism in the country.

We make this call in the light of the fact that Cuba has accepted most of the recommendations in the first cycle of the Universal Periodic Review.