

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

by

Union of Mulkiye Alumni (UMA)



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1. As the Union of Mulkiye Alumni (UMA), we would like submit hereby our considerations relating to human rights in Cuba for the Universal Periodic Review of Cuba in May 2013.
2. The Cuban Revolution has been an exemplary for the world for its commitment to construct an egalitarian and fair society where all citizens enjoy the rights to work, social security, education, health, housing, cultural development, recreation and sports as basic human rights. These rights are maybe referred to in constitutions of numerous countries; what differentiates the revolutionary Cuban government, however, is that it has guaranteed them free of charge. Given the huge income disparities that sweep all societies, whether considered “developed”, “developing” or “undeveloped”, free exercise of these rights is a genuine condition for the governments to keep their promises for human rights “for all”.
3. Despite its modest economic scale and despite the unlawful and cruel economic, commercial and financial blockage of the United States, the Cuban government maintains its firm dedication not to deprive any single citizen of his/her basic human rights.
4. Today Cuban babies enjoy the right to survive thanks to the fact the infant mortality rate was reduced to 4.9 per 1000 live births – much lower than the rates in countries with equivalent economic indicators; Cuban children enjoy the right to play games, go to school, be taken care of and protected in contrast to millions of children working in sweatshops or on the streets in other countries; Cuban women enjoy the highest rates of participation in economic and political life on equal conditions with men; Cuba is one of the few countries where individuals from different racial origins and/or religions are not victims of hate crimes.
5. These achievements are not only the product of Cuba’s comprehensive legal framework, but also the unique capability of the Cuban society to collectively involve in the task of betterment of their own lives. In contrast to the false allegations that in Cuba there is no freedom of expression; Cuba is the only country where every citizen has a genuine voice in policy making. This is not only evident in the extremely high voting rates in both national and local elections although voting is not compulsory in any of them. The approval process of the draft Economic and Social Guidelines in 2011 was also a spectacular evidence for people’s massive involvement in economic and social affairs. The Guidelines, which offers significant changes in the legal framework and practical aspects of national economic and social affairs, have been discussed in 163 thousand 79 meetings with participation of 8 million 913 thousand 838 people, where 3 million 19 thousand 471 persons spoke and 781 thousand 644 suggestions and opinions were collected. The numbers show that many people opted to join more than one meeting among many options of meetings in workplaces and neighborhoods.
6. The sincerity of the Cuban government to improve people’s basic rights and living conditions is also manifest in its marked effort in international bodies. During the last four

years, Cuba ratified many conventions including the UN Convention against Corruption, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the International Convention for the Protection of Persons from Enforced Disappearance, and the ILO Recommendation on HIV/AIDS and the World of Work.

7. During the same period, Cuba has also been active in submitting reports on human rights, especially on the rights of children, elimination of racial discrimination, elimination of torture, elimination of discrimination against women, and improvement the rights of persons with disabilities.
8. We sincerely hope that the abovementioned facts are taken into consideration in the process of UPR of Cuba in May 2013.