

## **Cubans – Humans with Rights**

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Discussing the questions of Human Rights in Cuba some fundamental, introductory considerations are necessary. The first Declaration of Human Rights took place by the declaration of independence of 13 British colonies in Northern America on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1776, and it not only didn't include slavery, but this chapter was actively excluded 'to reach broader acceptance', and they were only valid for 'free white men', but not for women, slaves, and free blacks; and there was included a principal right for resistance against suppression. The second declaration took place at the beginning of the French Revolution, and it also didn't include abolishing slavery, with the result that the slaves in the French colony Haiti didn't take care of that, and founded the first black republic, killing or expelling almost all Whites - the ones, who could escape, mostly went to neighboring Cuba.

These two acts gave a written form to a political concept, describing undeniable rights for each and every human being. After the 2nd World War the Universal Declaration of Human Rights took place by the General Assembly of the United Nations in Paris in December 1948.

It is possible to arrange these Rights in different groups, like in civil-political and socio-economical, but it is quite common that there is no justification whatsoever to separate some Rights, to single out special ones, and to produce some hierarchy. Human Rights form a unity, strongly interrelated with each other, some being prerequisites for the fulfillment of others: Illiteracy contradicts directly the right of education; health is indispensable for the right of life.

Both in history and in present time any discussion about Human Rights is a deeply political question, and any reliable comprehensive description of the regional and global problems of social and economical developments has to include them necessarily.

There is no doubt that there are special features of the Cuban political system and its electoral principles: There is widespread importance of political, but non-governmental organization like (among others) the National Association of Small Farmers (ANAP), the Federation of Cuban Women (FMC), the Central Worker's

Organization of Cuba (CTC), and the Federation of University Students (FEU), the two last founded already in 1939 and 1922, resp. The most important, non-governmental political organization are the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution (CDR), founded in 1960, with more than 8 million members in practically each and every local area and operating both as executive and as administrative body. For the electoral system it is significant that there is only one political party, the Communist Party of Cuba (PCC), but this party is not an electoral party, it even is not allowed to propose or to elect any candidates. The PCC's role is one of guidance and supervision in an active democracy, further developing equity and social justice in Cuban socialist society.

With respect to Human Rights it is necessary to point out that any declaration does not request a specific electoral method or even the existence of different political parties explicitly, but it states that 'all peoples have the right to self-determination, including the right to determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development', and, in addition, 'democracy is based on the freely expressed will of the people to determine their own political, economic, social and cultural systems and their full participation in all aspects of their lives'.

The Cuban people have long experience with multiparty systems, which at this time were a synonym for corruption, political and administrative fraud, illiteracy and poverty for almost any sector of social life. It was characteristic for discrimination and racism: Even Batista, who was head of a junta coming to power by a coup d'etat to prevent democratic elections, was not allowed to be member of a 'white' golf club in Havana.

José Martí, the national hero of Cuba, founded the Cuban Revolutionary Party to fight for the independence of Cuba from Spain and the United States, to liberate Cuba; already at this time this party was seen as the only one, resulting from the integration and voluntary union of revolutionary Cubans fighting in different organizations against an oligarchic and neo-colonial system imposed by the United States.

It is necessary to point out that it is characteristic for the political situation in Latin America in the last 10 to 15 years that in numerous countries traditionally bi-party systems have politically totally collapsed, thus proving that the number of parties is not a prerequisite whatsoever for a working democratic social system.

The system functioning in Cuba has been installed by the sovereign decision of all Cubans, and it is totally different to the way of practicing democracy in and by the United States:

Selecting a presidential candidate by acclamation, i.e. of course without secret voting, because there is only one candidate, or handing over power from the US-Army to the local army in one province of Iraq.

In addition it is useful to go to history: Consider the way, the 'god-fathers of Human Rights' acted in Vietnam, with Agent Orange, and in My Lai (and its hundreds similar places) - but take care: It is a quite positive recommendation in US nowadays, having served in the Vietnam slaughter!

And it's mandatory to consider the extermination of the buffalos, one of the most horrible ecological crimes in modern history, serving well to exterminate the Sioux and all the other inhabitants of North-American landscapes, which constitutes together with black slavery the most criminal genocidal crimes of modern history.

Lot of things in Cuba are consequences of a criminal total blockade by the United States, and there are interesting considerations possible, what parts of these features of social and economic life in Cuba are homemade, and where the crimes of foreign pressure are taken as pretexts for mistakes: To find out, what's the truth, is to lift the embargo, unconditionally, and respecting the sovereign right of Cuban people to decide themselves about the further development of their socialist society.