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Korean Jurists Committee submits this analysis of the political system and democracy as well as the challenge to realization of human rights in Cuba as a contribution to the UPR of Cuba, HRC Member State.

1. Political system and democracy

The Cuban Revolution freed, saved and strengthened the Cuban nation. The Cuban people broke the yoke of institutional racism, women discrimination, nepotism, political corruption, murders and political disappearances, illiteracy, chronic unemployment, insalubrity, ideological domination, the imposition of pseudo-cultural patrons which are alien to the Cuban people, as well as of hunger and misery.

The Cuban political system is a faithful expression of the will of the Cuban people in the exercise of their legitimate right to self-determination. It is genuinely authentic, autochthonous, widely democratic and participative.

The Cuban people experienced in their own flesh the disastrous consequences of the so-called liberal bourgeois democracy. They underwent the sad experience of the "multi-party" and "representative" system, which in the case of Cuba brought about external dependence, corruption, political and administrative fraud, hunger, physical mistreatment and torture, disappearances, discrimination and institutional racism.

From its very beginning, the Cuban Revolution was involved in designing a scheme which would allow for the eradication of all these inherited evils. Since then, it strived to develop its deeply humane social justice and equity project, which has guaranteed for the Cuban people the full exercise of all their rights without distinction of any kind.

Democracy in Cuba does not represent a formal and abstract concept. It is guaranteed

through the full participation of citizens in carrying out of all public matters and through dealing with and meeting the spiritual and material needs of the human being. Democracy is the government by the people and for the people. The Cuban people continue to move forward in its revolutionary process of continued transformations for the deepening of democracy and people's participation.

Democracy in Cuba is sustained also in the plurality of opinion, which influences the reaching of consensus determining the political, economic, social and cultural course of the nation, and in the condition of every Cuban citizen of being part and beneficiary of the exercise of power. Every citizen is not only the subject of political power, but also beneficiary and co-owner of the patrimony, the riches and the nation's fundamental means of production. Every citizen has access to the basic services such as education, health, social assistance and security without any kind of discrimination.

The Cuban democratic system meets the authenticity, legitimacy, justice and effectiveness requirements. The protection and guarantee of rights and liberties for Cuban citizens set forth in the Cuban Constitution and other national laws are compatible with the nature and scope of those rights and liberties consecrated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. And in numerous aspects, the recognition and protection of such rights and liberties are wider and all-embracing.

Cuba has built a social system based on a law-governed state, where a judicial protection and material conditions are guaranteed for the enjoyment of all human rights by all.

2. External factor impacting on realization of human rights

In the history of the Cuban Revolution, the policies, programs and aggressive actions by successive US governments against Cuba, with the aim of annihilating the revolutionary process undertaken by the Cuban people have been constant. Never before has a foreign policy against a country been equipped with such a wide and sophisticated arsenal of aggressive measures at the political, military, psychological and ideological levels.

This undeclared war against Cuba, among other actions, goes from the organization of and support for the terrorist actions against the country, the keeping in force of the fierce economic, commercial and financial blockade and even the shameful use of their own diplomats as common messengers to hand over money and privileges to citizens who, within the Cuban territory, act as mercenaries under the service of the US hostile and aggressive policy, and work to subvert the constitutional order legitimately established in Cuba by trampling over the right of the Cuban people to self-determination.

Questioning of the Cuban political and election system constitutes one of the main pillars of the hostility against Cuba promoted by the US on democracy and human rights matters. The powerful propagandistic machinery in the hands of the US imperialism has been responsible for attacking the Cuban system and for presenting the mercenaries they finance to promote their anti-Cuban policy as "dissident or pacific opposition" and as "human rights activities".