



ACFSydney

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, United Nations
uprsubmissions@ohchr.org

5 October 2012

Dear OHCHR,

Australia Cuba Friendship Society - UPR submission on Cuba - October 2012

The Sydney branch of the Australia Cuba Friendship Society has existed for over thirty years and we aim to promote and encourage friendship, understanding, trade and other exchange between the peoples of Australia and Cuba. A central aim of the activities of the society is to end the blockade of Cuba by the USA. We strongly oppose the blockade as an unprecedented, illogical and disproportionate act of economic warfare on a developing nation by its very large neighbour.

Our society sees the good work that Cuba participates in all over the world, and especially in our own region. Last year, the society sponsored a visit to Sydney by an East Timorese doctor who was given a six-year medical education in Cuba free of charge. This is part of an amazing program in East Timor where over 500 doctors were educated in Cuba or by Cuban professionals in East Timor.

Cuba also provides a literacy program, *Yo si Puedo (Yes I Can)*, which is currently operating in an aboriginal community in New South Wales, Australia. This is just another example of the positive work performed by Cuba for the benefit of the peoples of the world, including citizens of rich, Western nations like Australia.

Cuba is involved in these peaceful acts of international solidarity and aid despite the fact that it lives under the oppressive blockade imposed by the USA. The ACFS supports the right of Cubans to live independently within their socialist society, free of all forms of oppression and pressure from world powers.

Yours sincerely,

Chela Weitzel
President, ACFS Sydney