

Submission to the Universal Periodic Review of Cuba, 2nd circle
16th Session, April/May 2013

by the GREEK COMMITTEE FOR INTERNATIONAL DETENTE AND (EEDYE) PEACE

Athens, October 7, 2012

GREEK COMMITTEE FOR INTERNATIONAL DETENTE AND (EEDYE) PEACE



Founded May 15, 1955
Member of the World Peace Council

GREEK COMMITTEE FOR INTERNATIONAL DETENTE AND PEACE

**Themistokleous str. 106 81 Athens-Greece-tel.: +30 210 3844853-54-78 Fax:+30
210 3844879**

<http://www.eedye.gr/>
<mailto:eedye@otenet.gr>

I. Introduction

1. Peace, independence and sovereignty are essential conditions for the exercising of all fundamental rights and for social progress and development of all people across the world.

II. Background

1. History of Cuba is marked by long periods of deprivation of fundamental human rights as a result foreign interventions that sought to subjugate its people to colonial and imperialist domination. This is why there is a rich legacy of struggles for national liberation and social emancipation.

2. The triumph of the Cuban Revolution in 1959 reshaped radically the island. Life expectancy has grown by more than 20 years. Access to improved drinking water grew from 35.2% to more than 90%. Electricity supply from just 7% of homes to almost 100%. Cuba ranks 51 globally in the UN human development index.

3. Particularly known are its achievements in health and education. Its universal healthcare system is recognised by the World Health Organisation as one of the best in the world. Adult literacy is at 99.8%

4. It is broadly recognized for its stance in defence of the rights of the world's people for self-determination, independence and sovereignty. Cuba is renowned for its contribution in the struggles of the African people against the colonial yoke.

5. Cuba provides humanitarian aid and relief in more than 67 countries, including the paradigmatic Cuban mission in Haiti.. Since 1961 tens of thousands of foreign students have graduated in Cuba. Operation "Miracle" Operation Miracle restored the sight of more than 2 million people.

6. While Cuba has never resorted to acts of aggression against any country in the world, it has been a permanent target of attacks by the US and other forces since 1959 that have. There is a long list that includes, bombardments, the failed invasion in the Bay of Pigs, electronic and biological warfare, financing of sabotage and subversive actions. More than 5000 Cuban people have been victims of terrorist actions, while the Cuban population is still subjected to the most cruel, prolonged and unfair genocidal blockade in the human history.

7. Moreover, the Cuban territory and in particular the US base in Guantanamo, is being used illegally for acts that openly violate human rights, including torture against the will of the people and government of Cuba.

III. Some Recent developments

- 1.** In April of 2009 Cuba commuted death penalty. Today in Cuba nobody is sentenced to the death penalty.
- 2.** In 2011 the Commission of International Relations of the National Assembly issued appeal for the total elimination of all 22.600 nuclear spearheads.
- 3.** In 2012 Cuba lodged a complaint before the World Radiocommunication Conference against increased U.S. radio and television aggression on the part of the United States.
- 4.** Between 2010 and 2011 fiscal years, the US administration of President Obama gave 40 million dollars through USAID and State Department, for public operations directed to impose a “change of regime” in Cuba. In June of 2012 USAID announced a program for organizations that can establish “digital democracy” inside Cuba through technological means, for a total of \$18 million in the next three years. Much more money has been channelled. Huge funds are allocated every year for undercover operations.
- 5.** Various groups financed from abroad, and open mercenaries of the American government assume the disguise of the “human rights defender”, that has nothing to do in legal or substantial terms with the concept of human rights defenders as established in the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders. The case of Alan Gross, US citizen that was arrested being engaged in promoting illegal subversive activities is one recent evidence on the US interference in Cuba.

IV. Main obstacles to the further social and human development of Cuba

- 1.** The US policy of aggressions that has resorted in numerous interventions, including military interventions, financing of mercenaries, terrorist activities, to topple the legitimate government continues to be the most serious obstacle to the further social development of Cuba.
- 2.** The US blockade that hinders cooperation and international exchanges. It imposes strong restrictions on the purchase of medications, lab reagents, vaccines, biological protection and diagnostic means. The direct economic damage caused to the Cuban people by the implementation of the blockade that continues despite 19 UN GS resolutions exceeds 975 billion dollars.
- 3.** The continuing illegal occupation at Guantanamo of the by the US Naval Base that violate the territorial integrity and the national sovereignty of Cuba in all its territory.
- 4.** The illegal use the Guantanamo Naval Base, for the exercising of arbitrary detentions and tortures by the US forces that not only violate international

law and conventions they also the Cuban law and constitution and take place against the will of its people.

5. The EU “common position” on Cuba that violates Cuban sovereignty and hinders the development of friendly and equitable relations on bilateral and multilateral level.

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY GENERAL

STAVROS TASSOS

VERA NIKOLAIDOY