



Lao Youth Union

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No:...../SG.LYU

To: The Human Rights Council Secretariat

From: Dr. Sonethanou Thammavong
Member of National Assembly
Deputy Secretary General of Lao People's Revolutionary Youth Union

Re: The Countries Review, Cuba's Universal Periodical Review, in the Second Cycle
May, 2013

Vientiane Capital, date 4th October 2012

Laos established diplomatic relations with Cuba on November 4, 1974. Since then, the two nations have continued to expand cooperation in the areas of politics, education, sport, health and culture for the benefit of both peoples. In addition, various levels of government delegations from Laos and Cuba have exchanged visits to enhance relations and promote better understanding between the two countries.

The Lao People's Revolutionary Youth Union (LYU) is one of the mass organizations in Lao PDR, led by the Lao People's Revolutionary Party (LPRP). It stimulates the solidarity among the youth in the country, and it has been carrying out the activities in all line ministries, provinces, districts and villages. The responsibility of LYU is similar to Ministry of Youth and Sport existing in other countries. LYU works toward peace, independence, democracy, unity and prosperity of the country.

The Lao People's Revolutionary Youth Union has a long traditional relationship with the Communist Youth Union of Cuba (UJC) and therefore has profound understanding of the Cuban government and youth. LYU and UJC agreed that it is necessary to strengthen the friendly relations and cooperation between our two youths and promote friendship among the youths of the two countries and enhance cooperation of two youth organizations in order to bring more benefits to the young peoples of the two nations, and reaffirmed their commitment to consolidating mutual support in the regional and international arenas.

The Lao People's Revolutionary Youth Union as well as its people always support and strongly believe that the just struggle of the Cuban people will eventually end up with the victory.

The triumph of the Revolution permitted the Cuban people to attain their true independence and the full, universal enjoyment of all human rights for all.

The Cuban people have continued vindicating and defending the Revolution that made possible the enjoyment of civil, political, cultural, economic and social rights of everyone in the country. All Cubans continue to ensure their rights free self-determination, development, peace and a fair, democratic and equitable international order.

From the 2009 until 2012, Cuba has continued to move through a process of permanent and profound transformations to improve the socialist system, endorsed and built by its people with the aim of advancing towards a society, equitable and productive.

The policy of hostility, blockade and aggressions by successive United States administrations against Cuba has been a serious obstacle to the full enjoyment of human rights and the basic freedoms of all Cubans, including their rights to life, peace, free self-determination and development. The most serious aspect of that policy is that it violates the most elementary rights of the Cuban people.

Cuba has always maintained a high level cooperation with the United Nations human rights procedures and mechanisms of non-discriminatory nature and of universal application.

Cuba has fulfilled the recommendations arising from the first cycle of the Universal Periodical Review (UPR) in 2009. Cuba has always been ready to participate in frank and genuine dialogue about human rights on a basis of respect for its full dignity and sovereignty. Cuba accepted a high number of recommendations in the first UPR cycle.

The unfair and malicious political-media campaigns against Cuba promoted by the United States are ignorant about the achievements of the country in human rights and have negative impact on the UN human rights instruments. The US government funds and guides individuals to commit illegal acts in Cuba and, for this purpose, it urges them to abuse official UN human rights mechanisms and procedures.

The Lao People's Revolutionary Youth Union, hereby submits its complimentary document to the Human Right Council for consideration of Cuba's Universal Periodical Review.

The Lao People's Revolutionary Youth Union avails itself of this opportunity, the assurances of its highest and distinguished consideration.

Yours Sincerely,

**Dr. Sonethanou Thammavong
Member of National Assembly
Deputy Secretary General
Lao People's Revolutionary Youth Union**

