

United Nations Association of China (UNA-China) 71 Nanchizi Street, Beijing 100006, China Tel: (+8610) 85115983/7 Fax: (+8610) 65236093 Email: <u>secretariat@unachina.org</u> Website: www.unachina.org

The United Nations Association of China (UNA-China), established in1985, is the only non-governmental organization in China committed to the promotion of the purposes and principles enshrined in Charter of the United Nations. UNA-China is one of the founding members of the World Federation of the United Nations Associations (WFUNA), and the first of its kind in China enjoying General Consultative Status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). It is associated with the Department of Public Information (DPI) of the UN and also a full member of the Conference of the Non-governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CoNGO). The purposes of UNA-China are to disseminate information about the UN, to promote comprehension, research and popularization of UN endeavors and activities; to help realize the purposes and principles of the UN Charter; to enhance mutual understanding, friendship and cooperation among peoples of all nations, and to contribute to the maintenance of world peace and common prosperity. UNA-China is headquartered in Beijing and headed by a president and two vice-presidents. The secretariat, led by the Director-General and his/her Deputy, tends to the day-to-day work. The current president of the UNA-China is Mr. CHEN Jian, former Under-Secretary-General of the UN.

- 1. In Cuba no death sentence has been passed by the courts since the last UPR report.
- 2. In April of 2009, the Council of State decided to commute the death penalty and replace it with a 30-year sentence or life imprisonment for any inmates having received the death sentence. The decision was adopted as a sovereign act, in accordance with the humanitarian conduct and ethics of the Cuban Revolution from its beginnings. Today in Cuba there is no longer anyone sentenced to the death penalty.
- 3. Cuba has institutionalized a system of independent bodies, headed by the Supreme Court, acting collegially, composed according to their competency and with broad popular participation in the dealing of justice.
- 4. The Cuban judicial system is based on the principle of absolute independence of judges individually and of the entire system of Courts in the function of dealing justice; the popular nature of justice; the elective nature of judges (both professional and lay judges); the absolute equality of all persons before the law; the presumption of innocence; all trials are public, except in cases excepted by law; all rulings of the courts may be appealed according to stipulations established by law in each case; every accused party has the right to legal defense.
- 5. Cuba has been victim of a ferocious campaign to discredit its performance in human rights matters and of ignorance of the existence of the rule of law in the country. Spreading unfounded accusations only results in obscuring Cuba's reality and performance in matters dealing with the promotion and protection of all human rights for all, and it is part of a well organized and funded political campaign that is alien to legitimate concerns over human rights.
- 6. As part of the hostile policy of the government of the United States, projects are implemented that are directed to promote campaigns discrediting Cuban authorities, with the aim of disrupting order, inciting violence and creating the image of a supposed climate of destabilization and unruliness in the country. These activities are financed by ultra-rightwing organizations in the city of Miami, backed by the US government, whose declared aim is the destruction of the established political and social system in Cuba.
- 7. The so-called human rights defenders acting in Cuba are mercenaries in the service of the American government; their actions and purposes undermine and seek to destroy the internal juridical organization of Cuba

(national laws) within whose framework all activities must be undertaken according to stipulations in Article 3 of the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders adopted by the UN General Assembly on December 9, 1998. None of these qualify under the concept of human rights defenders as established in that Declaration.

- 8. In Cuba, human rights defenders are protected, in equal conditions, according to the postulates of the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders. Nobody in Cuba has been persecuted or penalized for peacefully exercising their rights, including those of expression, opinion and association, within the framework of the broad liberties guaranteed by the Constitution of the Republic and its laws, completely compatible with international human rights instruments. Ethics has been an important protective shield for the Cuban Revolution in the face of a policy of aggression and hostility by the greatest power in the world.
- 9. Discrimination for religious reasons does not exist. There are around 400 religions and religious institutions based on the credo of their membership; they carry out their activities with no interference whatsoever by the State. All religions have their churches and places of worship for their activities which regularly take place without any impediments.