

RESOLUTION ON CUBA

Considering the right, recognized in article 1 of the current Constitution of the Republic of Cuba, which confirms the right to political freedom; in article 3, which states that sovereignty resides with the people and this stems from the power of the state; and article 88 subsection g, which allows more than 10,000 citizens with the right to vote to stand as candidates to the National Assembly of the People Power, the legislating body;

Noting that since 2002, based on these rights recognized by the Cuban Constitution, more than 25,000 Cuban citizens have legally demanded that a referendum be held on the subject of freedom of expression and association as well as economic freedoms; that a new electoral law be debated and approved; that all political prisoners be freed; and that free and pluralistic elections be held following this referendum.

Noting that the desire of all the Cubans is to have the right to freely enter and leave their own country.

Now that both Europe and the United States seem to be normalizing their economic and diplomatic relations with the Cuban regime, and that the conditions responsible for external interference and pressure are removed, the Cuban people have the right to freely decide on their future within a framework of freedoms and rights which the Cuban authorities do not seem to be providing or guaranteeing.

CDI, which stance it is to defend democracy and self-determination for every people and nation, aims to lead an international solidarity campaign in support of the demands and the aspirations of the Cuban citizens, oppressed by the existing Cuban regime, by publicly stating its support for a referendum in which the rights of all Cubans will be guaranteed by law ; and for free and pluralistic elections, monitored by impartial observers, to be organized no later than the year 2018, the year in which President Raul Castro has publicly stated he will no longer be a candidate as a member of the National Assembly for the position of President of the State and Ministerial Council

The Cuban regime has affirmed that, by 2016, it will approve a new electoral law, but this does not by itself guarantee the right to political pluralism or diversity. Rather, it points to a semi-opening which will allow the caste which has held power up till now will be able to maintain its hegemony over the rest of society. Thus, the referendum is of great importance to us because it pertains to the sovereign decision-making of the people versus a pact among the powerful and an end to the all-powerful control by General Raul Castro and the Communist – or some controlled multi-party system – as well as an end to the lack of liberties of the Cuban people.

Even now guarantees should already be in place for the above-announced rights and legal demands by thousands of Cubans and the abrogation of all laws that impede or complicate the free exercise of individual or collective freedoms. This must be the decisive moment in which



the true changes take effect that the Cuban people are longing for and which mark a new era of freedom and reconciliation for the children of Cuba.