

Resolution on Human Rights Violations in Cuba

The Centrist Democratic International (IDC-CDI) expresses its concern over the aggravation of the political and economic crisis in Cuba and condemns the systematic violations of human rights being carried out by the regime that governs the island. Acknowledges that:

1. After over six decades without free, fair, and multi-party elections, the crisis in Cuba is worsening. According to Hanke's 2021 Misery Index, published in March 2022, Cuba is the most miserable country in the world, with soaring inflation and an alarming shortage of commodities.
2. The mobilization of Cuban citizens in favor of a change of system: The peaceful pro-freedom protests, which began on July 11, 2021, continue to occur throughout the country and have intensified over the past two months despite the militarization and state terrorism by the authorities on the demonstrators.
3. The regime is currently holding more than one thousand political prisoners, some of whom are under the age of 18.
4. Nearly 200,000 Cubans have crossed the southern border of the United States irregularly since Ortega's regime suddenly lifted the visa restriction for Cubans in November 2021, in what appears to be a coordinated operation between the authorities in Havana and Managua.
5. The agreement between the government of Mexico and the Cuban regime to hire at least 500 doctors from Cuba is a direct violation of the free trade agreement between Mexico, Canada, and the United States - USMCA. The United States defined these "medical brigades" as human trafficking in its annual report on trafficking in persons (TIP). In November 2019, the United Nations special rapporteurs on contemporary forms of slavery used the term "forced labor" to describe these missions.
6. The Cuban dictatorship's decision to extend its ties with Putin's regime. In December 2021, Russia threatened to repeat the "missile crisis" in Cuba. On January 13, 2022, Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov repeated the threat and said on Russian national television that he could "not exclude" the sending of military assets to Cuba and Venezuela if talks with Ukraine failed. On 22 February, just days before the invasion of Russia, the Duma spokesman arrived in Cuba and thanked the country for its support of Russia's decision on the republics of Donetsk and Luhansk.
7. The Cuban regime is the Kremlin's best transatlantic ally, using its press agencies to spread false news about the invasion of Ukraine and the fallacious narrative of the Putin regime.

It is time for the world's democracies to unite in solidarity against dictatorships across our continent. The Centrist Democratic International (IDC-CDI) resolves:

1. To urge the Cuban authorities to eliminate all forms of political violence, guarantee the right to peaceful demonstration and proceed immediately to release all persons deprived of liberty for political reasons.
2. To urge the Cuban authorities to take the necessary measures to guarantee: free access to information and all media, full use of freedom of expression and association, equal access to the census and the electorate, and an end to repression, among other conditions, prior to the holding of a binding plebiscite.
3. To resolutely support the holding of a binding plebiscite in Cuba, with the aforementioned guarantees and according to international standards, so that the Cuban people can sovereignly decide on a change to a democratic system that respects the plurality of Cuban society, allowing the transition to democracy to begin and overcoming the current crisis.
4. To request all the parties members of this organization to influence their national governments to take similar steps and:
 - a. Denounce the state terrorism and crimes against humanity of the Cuban regime.
 - b. Vigorously enforce national and international laws prohibiting modern practices of slavery and trafficking in persons by the Cuban authorities. Cancel any existing contract through the Cuban state and hire Cuban workers directly.
 - c. Use all available tools, including the Inter-American Treaty on Reciprocal Assistance and the European Union's Global Sanctions Mechanism, to address the threat posed by the Cuban regime and to curb its impunity.

Executive Committee – Panama 26.11.22