

RESOLUTION ON CUBA

The IDC-CDI,

1. Endorses, once again, the recommendations recently made to the Cuban government by a great number of states, in the framework of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the UN Human Rights Council, to immediately and unreservedly ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, signed by Cuba in the New York headquarters of the United Nations in February 2008.
2. Calls on the Cuban government to use the opportunity provided by the constitutional reform process currently underway in Cuba to incorporate in the new Constitution guarantees for the full respect of the fundamental rights of the Cuban people including a pluralistic system of political parties, freedom of expression and of the press, freedom of meeting and association, the freedom to freely and unrestrictedly enter and leave Cuba as well as the freedom to invest in the economy of Cuba under the same conditions allowed to foreign investors. Recalls that these political, social and economic freedoms were demanded by 35,000 Cubans with a right to vote in the proposed referendum law of the Varela project.
3. Reiterates its demand to the government of Cuba for the immediate and unconditional release of all political prisoners, including the political prisoner Eduardo Cardet, National Coordinator of the Christian Liberation Movement (Movimiento Cristiano de Liberación – MCL) and Vice-President of the Christian Democratic Organization of America (ODCA), the activists of the Cuban Patriotic Union and the “ladies in white”. We wish to put on record that in April this year, more than 10,000 Cuban residents signed a petition directed to the Council of State demanding the unconditional freedom of Eduardo Cardet. In addition, we denounce the fact that the signatures were confiscated by the State Security organs at the moment the provincial coordinator for the city of Havana of the MCL, Mrs. Rosa Maria Rodriguez came to present them to the authorities.
4. Denounces the constant increasing of repression since Miguel Diaz-Canel took over the presidency of Cuba, marked by even more harassment against dissidents and opposition members, involving, among other means, an increase in arbitrary and repeated detentions against Cubans expressing opinions or aspirations for change regarding the lack of respect for their rights.
5. Condemns these practices of harassment, under which more than 200 arbitrary detentions took place in the month of October 2018 alone, according to reports received by the Cuban Human Rights Observatory.
6. Condemns with equal firmness the recent increase in the practice of prohibiting, without justification, any Cuban human rights defender the right to freely enter and leave his own country, such as has occurred in recent weeks with Berta Soler, leader of the “ladies in white”, the right of renewal for those whose passport has been arbitrarily denied, or with Regis Iglesias and Pedro Guerra, leaders of the MCL and the Christian Democrat Party (PDC), who have also been denied the right to enter the country.
7. Deplores that the meeting of Pedro Sánchez with the Castrist regime of Díaz Canel not only served to clean-up the foreign affairs image of the Cuban dictatorship, but also once more deny the opposition and political prisoners a minimal possibility to defend public freedoms and human rights, which are systematically violated.
8. Calls the OAS and EU to lead and promote electoral observation missions for the next Cuban elections, being aware of the fact that the Díaz Canel government will not make any formal petition to any democratic State.

