



CUBA'S INTERNATIONALIST SPIRIT: STEADFASTNESS AND SOLIDARITY AMIDST THE GENOCIDAL BLOCKADE

The U.S. economic, commercial and financial blockade against Cuba is the longest in modern human history, inflicting financial damages amounting to almost \$1.5 trillion.

The decades-long U.S. blockade against Cuba has caused significant financial harm while undermining the country's achievements and human rights. Despite the challenges, Cuba remains committed to solidarity and humanitarian efforts worldwide, while exposing U.S. hypocrisy over human rights and global peace.

The blockade is a crime against humanity, as it is an act of genocide and a flagrant, systematic violation of human rights for more than 11 million Cubans. It is a cruel policy of punishment systematically applied against Revolutionary Socialist Cuba in order to destroy its achievements in healthcare, education, sports and culture.

U.S. Policies of Economic Warfare

The U.S. policy on Cuba after its revolution, as outlined by Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, Lester Mallory on April 6, 1960, is meant to use "every possible means ... to weaken the economic life of Cuba ... a line of action which, while as adroit and inconspicuous as possible, to bring about hunger, desperation and overthrow of government."

The so-called Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act, also known as the "Helms-Burton Act," is part of the legislative and legal framework that supports the criminal blockade imposed on Cuba.

The extra territorial tentacles of this Act bar any ship from docking at any U.S. ports for 6 months if it has previously stopped in Cuba. Products from any country that contain over 10 percent of material of U.S. origin are restricted from being sold to Cuba. These are merely a few examples of the brutal U.S. policy toward a nation that has extended its hand in solidarity to the farthest corners of the globe, from Pakistan to the Māori people of New Zealand.

The U.S. has included Cuba in its arbitrary list of the State Department's "state sponsor of terrorism" in order to scare away, with financial punishments, any entity, individual or government that dares to trade with Cuba. These measures are meant to make life even more difficult for Cubans who despite the hardships, have built a strong, vibrant society based on their culture and needs.

In fact, since day one of Cuba's victorious revolution in January 1959, it has been the U.S. government that has financially supported and directed terrorist acts against Cuba, causing the deaths of 3,478 people and permanent injuries to more than 2,019.

Cuban origin terrorists Louis Posada Carriles and Orland Bosch — who were trained by the CIA — bombed, with the full knowledge of the FBI and the U.S. government, a Cubana Airliner in 1976 where all 73 people onboard perished midair. And statues are erected to honor such terrorists in Miami, Florida, hailing them as "heroes"! Terrorist organizations openly conduct military training and raise their guns from U.S. territory to unleash terrorist acts even today. While those who throw Molotov cocktails and shoot at the Cuban Embassy in Washington D.C. in broad daylight walk free!



The Human Cost of the Blockade

The genocidal U.S. blockade against Cuba, coupled with a relentless campaign of lies, misinformation and acts of violence, has resulted in the following financial damage within just one year (2023-2024):

The Cost of 8 Hours of Blockade: equivalent to the cost of toys and teaching aids needed in all of the country's daycare centers (around \$4.5 million).

The Cost of 9 Days of Blockade: about equal to the funding required to import a year's supply of reagents and medical disposables (cotton swabs, gauze, syringes, needles, sutures, catheters, serum equipment and more) to cover the needs of the national health system (\$129 million).

The Cost of 18 Days of Blockade: compares to the maintenance of the National Electrical Power System, with the exception of fuel and investments (\$250 million).

The Cost of 4 Months of Blockade: roughly equal to the financing required to guarantee the distribution of rationed family food baskets to the population in one year (around \$1.6 billion).

The Cost of 7 Months of Blockade: equivalent to the financing necessary to buy buses for the public transportation system of the country (around \$2.85 billion).

The Cost of 9 Months of Blockade: comparable to the estimated amount needed to build new houses in the country (around \$3.89 billion).

Commitment to Global Solidarity & Humanitarian Efforts

The Cuban revolution and the cultured people of the country have remained steadfast in upholding their ideals of a world where "homeland is humanity" and where the only decisive weapon in their arsenal is, as historic revolutionary leader Fidel Castro Ruz stated, "The Battle of Ideas."

The inhumane U.S. blockade against Cuba has also attempted to undermine the internationalist ideals of the Cuban Revolution, which have driven the country to support other nations at critical junctures. This has included sacrificing her sons and daughters in the fight against apartheid in South Africa, and providing education and training to tens of thousands of youth from around the world, helping them become doctors, engineers and more. Cuba also rose up for thousands of children from Ukraine in the aftermath of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster without expecting a penny in return!

Today, Revolutionary Socialist Cuba's commitments towards other nations include assisting the heroic people of Palestine, embracing Palestinian youth to study medicine in Cuba and preparing to receive thousands upon thousands of Palestinians injured in the U.S.-backed Israeli genocide in Gaza.

The fundamental pillar of the Cuban Revolution lies in fostering a culture of solidarity and human dignity, advocating for a world where human needs take precedence over the imperialist dog-eat-dog culture of individualism and consumerism; while facing shortages of electricity and other essential resources due to the brutal U.S. blockade, media warfare and overt acts of violence! These values are at the heart of Cuban society as it strives to also protect its physical environment, which features beautiful landscapes and waters, by investing in renewable energy.

Unfortunately, Cuba is and will remain subject to inhumane U.S. policies as long as it keeps its internationalist banner unfurled to stand in solidarity with other nations despite its own extreme hardships, showcasing the finest in humanity to the world!

It is also necessary to expose the hypocrisy of the U.S. government on "human rights," "democratic rights," and other such rhetoric as it seeks to force the Cuban nation into submission, yet repeatedly fails. Meanwhile, Cuba upholds these values despite suffering at the hands of the beast.

This is why it is crucial to take concrete actions in solidarity with Revolutionary Cuba to mitigate the harms of the genocidal blockade so that the country can flourish to its true, wonderful potential.

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