

Universal Periodic Review (Fourth Cycle)

Stakeholders' Joint Submissions about

CUBA by Frente Unido ALB

1 Frente Unido America Latina Berlin (Frente Unido ALB)

Frente Unido America Latina Berlin was founded in January 2019 and is an alliance of different organisations (Chile Friendship Society, World Beyond War, Anti War Cafe Berlin, Ireland Solidarity Group Omega, and others) and individuals from Latin America and Germany with the aim of preserving the sovereignty and dignity of our Americas on the basis of social justice and the idea of international understanding.

An important pillar of our work is respect for international law in the sense of the UN Charter.

The permanent blockade and sanctions in countries of our continent like in Cuba has brought much suffering and we consider it a violation of universal human rights and a violation of the right of self-determination of nations.

2 experiences and assessments of developments in Cuba with regard to human rights

In the reporting period from 2017 to 2023 Cuba has taken further important steps in the development of the state and society. Here are some examples:

- On 24 Feb. 2019, the new Cuban Constitution was approved by an overwhelming majority in a referendum after two phases of months of discussions in all parts of society and after numerous changes. The turnout was 90.15%, of which 86.85% voted in favour. This is an excellent result.
- In it, Cuba defines itself as a socialist constitutional state of social justice and sustainability, democratic, independent and sovereign, organised by all and for the good of all as a unitary and indivisible republic, founded on the labour, dignity, humanism and ethics of its citizens for the benefit of freedom, equality, equity, solidarity, well-being and individual and collective prosperity.
- This includes greater decentralisation of power, greater autonomy and participation of the provinces as well as municipalities.
- Also included are guarantees of the various forms of property, including private property.
- Since then, Cuba has been working on the implementation of the constitutional articles in laws and regulations. For example, in September 2022, also after intensive public discussion, a very modern family law was passed by referendum after broad discussion among the people, which takes into account the diversity of Cuban society and prohibits any discrimination as well as the

use of violence.

3 On the situation in Cuba and the current context

In order to be able to adequately appreciate this progress in the further development of Cuban society, especially with regard to the many aspects of human rights, the regional and geopolitical framework conditions must be taken into account.

First and foremost are the human rights violations being perpetrated against the 11.4 million Cuban citizens by the US governments' ongoing economic, trade and financial blockade, which is contrary to international law. In our own visits and those of our member groups, we have unfortunately had to see the relentless and destructive consequences of the US blockade in the daily lives of the Cuban people. This starts with the supply of food, but also extends to medicines, cleaning products, medical equipment, and finally insufficient supplies of oil and petrol - i.e. energy, which is also so important for businesses. US citizens are only allowed to travel to Cuba in exceptional cases and on the basis of government permits (thus even US citizens are deprived of human rights) and US companies are also hindered by US authorities (OFAC)! The US blockade hinders international communication because of the blocking of software, internet and online meeting platforms, also the bans and obstructions of air and sea connections to Cuba, as well as the obstruction of financial transfers from EU states. In addition, there are still the numerous subversions and media campaigns by the USA against Cuba, which are intended to spread fear in many other countries to initiate or strengthen relations and contacts with Cuba. Even during the difficult emergency situation of the Covid pandemic, the US blockade prevented the delivery of important medical materials and spare parts to Cuba. Numerous donation transfers from our members in Germany to Cuba were blocked or obstructed by banks and suppliers. Finally, transport costs (containers, cargo ships, air freight, etc.) increased extremely in recent years, so that the usual supply levels in Cuba could not be maintained.

In addition, the reporting period was marked by massive problems and challenges for Cuba: the effects of the pandemic, the collapse of tourism, the main source of income for the state, Hurricane Ian, the explosion of a hotel in the centre of Havana, the major fire at an oil depot in Matanzas, as well as a massive intensification of the US blockade, which has lasted for more than 60 years and is in violation of international law, and further sanction measures by the neighbouring superpower, especially during the presidency of Donald Trump. This happened despite the fact that for 30 years now, the UN General Assembly has almost unanimously condemned this blockade of the USA against Cuba, which according to the UN Charter can be described as an "act of war", and has called for its end.

The US governments are flouting these resolutions, ignoring this clear and emphatic demand of the world community with complete arrogance and high-handedness. Also, during the reporting period, the extraterritorial effects have been amplified by affecting and harming German businesses, banks, online traders, academics, cultural workers, athletes, citizens, as well as us as an NGO and many of our member groups. All this led to the situation of the population in Cuba deteriorating considerably, and for about two years migration, especially of young people and families, has increased significantly, creating bottlenecks in the economy.

4 Social developments in Cuba

Despite the major challenges and problems outlined above, Cuba was able to pursue its self-chosen development through state policies at all administrative levels and the commitment of large sections of the population.

- Cuba managed to develop five of its own vaccines and vaccinate almost the entire population, so that Covid-19 remained manageable by international standards. In addition, Cuba has sent medical brigades to many other countries. This is why it has been nominated by many for the Nobel Peace Prize.
- Even in these difficult times, it was possible to ensure the important human rights to health and education as well as care for the most vulnerable sections of the population, even though there were manifold deficiencies and power cuts due to the extreme lack of foreign currency.
- In July 2021, demonstrations took place in various places in Cuba, expressing dissatisfaction with the situation. However, they were demonstrably intensively fuelled from the outside (e.g. US embassy), which in part led to vandalism, destruction and attacks on institutions and people. These crimes were punished in court proceedings according to the laws in force, and young people under the age of 16 were subjected to educational measures. All this was disrupted by foreign media campaigns of misinformation and falsification that tried to turn the demonstrations into an uprising against the Cuban government. This is well documented.
- The state's response was to seek more dialogue with the population, to expand opportunities for participation and co-determination, and to support personal engagement.
- Of course, the aim was and is to improve the current situation, but in view of the continuing blockade and sanctions, this can only be done gradually and largely by the country's own efforts. The central role is played by the state-owned enterprises, whose efficiency and autonomy are to be increased, but also by the private sector on the basis of appropriate legislation. There is also a focus on the development of agriculture, which should lead to greater food sovereignty.
- The 2016 Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement between the European Union and Cuba could play an important role in this - so far it has been successfully implemented with much room for improvement.
- Cuba has a wide panorama of civil society organisations (workers, women, youth, artists, scientists) that are directly involved in all processes of society.
- The media, including social networks, are now well developed and widespread among the population. However, they are subject to an ideological and cultural war from outside with the aim of achieving "regime change".
- At the international level, Cuba always stands out for its commitment to a peaceful process of understanding, accepting sovereignty and self-determination, on an equal footing. Thus, the Cuban government and diplomacy helped with the peace agreements and has also recently been called upon again to contribute to a peaceful agreement between the parties to the conflict in

Colombia.

In our view, the various facets of human rights as laid down in UN documents and agreements are realised and strengthened to a particularly high degree in Cuba - despite the threats and subversions, especially from the neighbouring superpower, the USA.

The realities described, which we know very well from many years of diverse contacts and cooperation, expose the fake news and distorted images about democracy and human rights in Cuba spread by right-wing extremist circles in the USA.

5 Assessment and Comments on Level of Implementation of Selected Recommendations from UPR 3 for Cuba

Theme: General framework of implementation

24.61 Continue efforts to promote the integral and full development of human rights (Tunisia); Source of position: A/HRC/39/16/Add.1 - Para. 7

An important step in the implementation of human rights in Cuba was and is the new constitution, which was adopted in a referendum on 24 Feb. 2019. This took place after two phases of months of discussions in all parts of society and after numerous changes with an overwhelming majority. The turnout was 90.15%, of which 86.85% voted in favour. The updated constitution contains numerous articles that deal with the various aspects of the realisation of social and civil human rights and are intended to improve their realisation. In the new Constitution, Cuba defines itself as a socialist constitutional state of social justice and sustainability, democratic, independent and sovereign, organised by and for the benefit of all, as a unitary and indivisible republic, founded on the labour, dignity, humanism and ethics of its citizens for the benefit of freedom, equality, equity, solidarity, well-being and individual and collective prosperity.

And Article 9, for example, states: "State organs, their directors, officials and employees are obliged to respect, care for and respond to the people, to maintain close relations with them and to submit to their control as stipulated in the Constitution and the laws."

Theme: A22 Cooperation with treaty bodies

24.43 Fully cooperate with human rights mechanisms and grant them unhindered access to Cuba, including to government officials, civil society organisations and human rights defenders, to prisons and detention centres (Germany); **Source of position:** A/HRC/39/16/Add.1 - Para. 8

The rights and protection of civil society actors, human rights groups and journalists are guaranteed. These actors enjoy a high reputation. Nevertheless, due to the subversive actions of the US and dangerous exiled Cuban groups, which are even officially supported and guided with funding and other resources from the US administration and intelligence services (US Embassy in Havana), there is a challenge to protect the sovereign country against such foreign, hostile actors and their aggressive, subversive activities. It is perfidious and obscene for the US to mobilise subversion and media attacks, and to declare and harshly criticise the protective actions of the Cuban state and people as "human rights violations". The aim of the US-backed measures is the overthrowing and "regime change" in Cuba - i.e. something they vehemently and historically use all means to prevent in their own country. Paid by well-known system and foreign countries, subversion (NED; state sponsored subversion by U.S. agencies). Unfortunately, some German diplomats also interfere in the anti-Cuban activities of so-called, and foreign-funded and foreign-supported "dissidents".

Theme: A28 Cooperation with other international mechanisms and institutions

24.95 Promote the necessity of eliminating politicization and contextualization of human rights issues at various fora (India); Source of position: A/HRC/39/16/Add.1 - Para. 7

24.100 Keep denouncing the negative impact of the criminal economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed on Cuba by the United States of America, which affects the enjoyment of human rights (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela)

24.101 Continue to protect its population against the effects of the embargo imposed by the United States of America (Plurinational State of Bolivia)

24.102 Continue condemning in international fora the unilateral coercive measures against developing countries, such as the blockade imposed by the United States against Cuba, as instruments which violate the peoples' human rights (Nicaragua)

Cuba continues to be the country that criticises the injustices, inequalities, oppression and neo-colonial and imperialist policies in international forums and, of course, in the UN and its sub-organisations, as well as in documents, and behaves as a supporter of the weak countries and peoples.

And so, since US President Trump, Cuba has been confronted with a massive tightening of the US blockade, which has lasted for more than 60 years in violation of international law, and further sanction measures by the neighbouring superpower. This has happened despite the fact that for 30 years now the UN General Assembly has almost unanimously condemned this US blockade against Cuba, which according to the UN Charter can be described as an "act of war", and has called for its end. The US governments ignore this clear and emphatic demand of the world community with complete arrogance and self-importance.

Cuba is involved in an exemplary manner in all UN bodies and sub-organisations such as WHO, FAO, etc. Cuba also shows solidarity with other countries by supplying vaccines and other vital materials

at very favourable conditions. And it shows solidarity with other countries, supplying vaccines and other vital materials at very favourable conditions, often even free of charge.

In addition, Cuba managed to develop five of its own vaccines and vaccinate almost the entire population, so that Covid-19 remained manageable by international standards. In addition, Cuba has sent medical brigades to many other countries. This is why it has been nominated by many for the Nobel Peace Prize. The medical internationalism of Cuba (the Henry Reeve Brigades) is recognised worldwide.

Theme: A3 Inter-State cooperation & development assistance

24.107 Continue to encourage dialogue and cooperation with other States in the field of human rights, based on the principles of mutual respect, sovereign equality, self-determination and the right to independently determine their political system (Russian Federation);
Source of position: A/HRC/39/16/Add.1 - Para. 7

(and others)

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Theme: A41 Constitutional and legislative framework

24.54 etc. Several different states; Source of position: A/HRC/39/16/Add.1 - Para. 7

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In it, Cuba defines itself as a socialist constitutional state of social justice and sustainability, democratic, independent and sovereign, organised by and for the benefit of all as a unitary and indivisible republic, founded on the labour, dignity, humanism and ethics of its citizens for the benefit of freedom, equality, equity, solidarity, well-being and individual and collective prosperity.

Theme: B41 Right to development

24.103 Pursue its national agenda against the imposed embargo, which should be fully lifted to allow Cuba to build on its extraordinary record on socioeconomic rights (South Africa); Source of position: A/HRC/39/16/Add.1 - Para. 7

24.92 Continue to promote economic and social development according to national development plans, to better promote and protect human rights (China); Source of position: A/HRC/39/16/Add.1 - Para. 7

24.104 Continue to modernize the Cuban model of economic and social development in the face of the illegal American embargo that violates the human rights of the Cuban people (Syrian Arab Republic); Source of position: A/HRC/39/16/Add.1 - Para. 7

Cuba has been and continues to be subjected to massive intensifications of the US blockade, which has lasted for more than 60 years in violation of international law, and further sanctions measures by the neighbouring superpower. This has happened and continues to happen despite the fact that for 30 years now the UN General Assembly has almost unanimously condemned this US blockade against Cuba, which according to the UN Charter can be described as an "act of war", and has called for its end. The US governments ignore this clear and emphatic demand of the world community with complete arrogance and high-handedness. And in doing so, they are affecting the lives and well-being of the entire Cuban population of 11 million-plus Cuban exiles.

Nevertheless, Cuba's government, together with experts and the support of the population, has managed to work closely with the WHO and even to develop and produce its own vaccines against the covid virus and transfer this to poor countries at very favourable conditions. In addition, there is the medical internationalism with which Cuba has helped and continues to help many societies in emergency situations (currently, for example, in the south of Italy).

Theme: D7 Right to participation in public affairs and right to vote

24.155 Redouble efforts to perfect people's power at the local level, as a genuine expression of its democratic model (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela); Source of position: A/HRC/39/16/Add.1 - Para. 7

24.173 Maintain and improve existing measures and mechanisms to encourage young people to participate in all social affairs (China); Source of position: A/HRC/39/16/Add.1 - Para. 7

(and many other recommendations from different countries)

24.202 Bring its electoral legislation in line with international law and standards (Sweden); Source of position: A/HRC/39/16/Add.1 - Para. 8

24.208 Reform its one-party system to allow for genuinely free and fair multiparty elections that provide citizens with real choices regarding their government (United States of America); Source of position: A/HRC/39/16/Add.1 - Para. 10

Cuba is one of the few countries where the government and state institutions at all levels proclaim and offer citizen participation and involvement. This is done not only in times of elections, but on numerous other occasions and projects. It is only worth mentioning here that urban gardening (organoponicos) have become an important area, that people are engaged in organic farming. Furthermore, participation is an essential part of the new constitution. For example, Article 192 states that "The Municipal Assembly of People's Power for the exercise of its functions shall rely on

its working commissions, people's councils, on the initiative and broad participation of the people, and shall act in close consultation with mass and social organisations." Moreover, there is a right to petition!

And Art. 204 states: "All citizens with the legal capacity to do so shall have the right to intervene in the direction of the State, directly or through their elected representatives, to become part of the organs of people's power and, to this end, to participate, as provided by law, in periodic elections, referendums and plebiscites, which shall be free, equal, direct and secret. Every voter shall have the right to one vote only." And the right to vote is even enjoyed by "all men and women over the age of sixteen years" (Art. 205). This is exemplary, and - as can be seen from the voter turnouts - is also actively exercised.

Theme: D8 Rights related to marriage & family

24.291 Improve the measures taken to reduce gender stereotypes in relation to the roles and responsibilities of women in the family and society (Afghanistan); Source of position: A/HRC/39/16/Add.1 - Para. 7

24.232 Consider setting the same age limit for girls and boys in exceptional cases of marriage below the age of 18 (Jamaica); Source of position: A/HRC/39/16/Add.1 - Para. 8

Very humane, social and progressive standards for marriage and family were already laid down in the new constitution. After a long and intensive public discussion, they were concretised in a new family law. This law enshrines various important protections and rights, such as the right for two people (irrespective of sex/gender) to marry. Children are given special protection and custody rights are clarified in a fair manner.

Theme: D29 Domestic violence

24.304 Continue efforts to combat gender-based and domestic violence (Nepal); Source of position: A/HRC/39/16/Add.1 - Para. 7

24.302 Continue efforts to combat all forms of violence against persons, including domestic violence (Libya); Source of position: A/HRC/39/16/Add.1 - Para. 7

Both in the new Constitution and specifically in the new Family Code, Domestic violence is clearly prohibited. Constitution Art. 70: "Mothers and fathers or other blood or kin in care have the duty to nurture children and adolescents, to respect and guarantee the full exercise of their rights, to protect them from all forms of violence and to actively contribute to the full development of their personality. Children, in turn, have a duty to respect, care for and protect their mothers, fathers and other relatives in accordance with the law. Domestic violence in any of its manifestations is

considered destructive to the individuals concerned, families and society and is sanctioned by law."

Theme: D43 Freedom of opinion and expression

24.164 Publicly acknowledge the role and work of members of civil society and take the necessary steps to ensure that human rights defenders and members of civil society organizations can exercise their rights to peaceful freedom of expression, assembly and association, in conformity with Cuba's international obligations (Belgium); Source of position: A/HRC/39/16/Add.1 - Para. 7

(and others)

In Cuban society, especially at the local level and in companies and institutions, youth organisations, trade unions and churches, etc., there are numerous opportunities to participate in the shaping of social affairs and to express opinions. This is already taught and practised in kindergartens and schools. Social media have created new, additional channels here. But also in the very developed cultural sphere, there are countless possibilities for expressing opinions and expressing oneself.

Article 43 of the Constitution states: "The State recognises, respects and guarantees the freedom of thought, conscience and expression of persons". And anyone who knows the everyday life of Cubans experiences the openness and self-confidence to make use of these rights.

In July 2021, demonstrations took place in various places in Cuba, expressing dissatisfaction with the situation. However, they were demonstrably intensively fuelled from the outside (e.g. US embassy), which in part led to vandalism, destruction and attacks on institutions and people. These crimes were punished in court proceedings according to the applicable laws, and young people under the age of 16 were subjected to educational measures. All this was disrupted by foreign media campaigns of misinformation and falsification that tried to turn the demonstrations into an uprising against the Cuban government. This is well documented.

The government's response was to seek more dialogue with the population, to expand opportunities for participation and co-determination, and to support personal engagement.

Theme: D44 Right to peaceful assembly

24.203 Take the necessary measures in order to guarantee the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and association, in conformity with international law, particularly human rights (Switzerland); Source of position: A/HRC/39/16/Add.1 - Para. 8

Constitutional Article 56 states: "The right of assembly, demonstration and association for lawful and peaceful purposes shall be recognised by the State, provided that it is exercised with due regard for public order and compliance with the requirements established by law." This is frequently used in Cuba. A particular, and at the same time problematic, highlight were the protests on 11 July 2021. They were primarily expressions of displeasure over the poor supply situation (caused primarily by the US blockade and sanctions), and the government and state institutions consistently expressed

their understanding and took these critical expressions seriously and immediately held talks and made additional services and efforts to improve the supply situation (this required new and expensive supply contracts for oil and food). At the same time, however, those protests were "special" because until then demonstrations and rallies in Cuba had always been peaceful. This time, however, there were individual and targeted violent actions (burning of cars, attacks on police stations and even a children's clinic!) - and it turned out that the US embassy was involved in communicating and spreading such aberrations. The Cuban security forces acted in a very restrained and civil manner. The perpetrators of violence and terrorists were tried through the usual legal channels and convicted if found guilty. There were no deaths, hardly any injuries etc. - so quite different from almost all other states in the region - including the USA!!!

Theme: E41 Right to health - General

24.109 Expand and share experiences with other countries in the prevention and treatment of diseases such as cholera, dengue and HIV (Mozambique); Source of position: A/HRC/39/16/Add.1 - Para. 7

The high quality and quantity of health care for the population in Cuba (despite the poor economic situation) is also shared with other countries! In exemplary solidarity, Cuba has helped many needy states in the global South with its Covid19 vaccines, mostly free of charge. And throughout the years before, the experts of the Henry Reeves Brigade in particular have helped in needy states and brought equipment (against the Ebola virus, for natural disasters). Cuba's medical internationalism is also very much recognised and appreciated in the WHO, especially since some rich countries are very reluctant to provide effective aid. In addition, there is the provision of study places at ELAM near Havana for people from poor countries.

Theme: E51 Right to education - General

24.271 Continue ensuring universal and free access to quality education for all at different levels of education (Brunei Darussalam); Source of position: A/HRC/39/16/Add.1 - Para. 7

24.277 Continue promoting the "Yo sí puedo" and "Yo sí puedo seguir" literacy programmes as a contribution to the efforts to combat illiteracy (El Salvador); Source of position: A/HRC/39/16/Add.1 - Para. 7

24.281 Strengthen the link between universities and research institutions with productive centres, as a contribution of education and science to the development of the country (Lao People's Democratic Republic); Source of position: A/HRC/39/16/Add.1 - Para. 7

The Cuban education system is exemplary. The incentive and motivation to learn are exceptionally high. And Art. 75 of the new Constitution states: "The national education system guarantees the inclusion of the teaching and practice of physical education and sport in the comprehensive education of children, adolescents and youth." The level of education is immensely high, even simple workers are well informed about what is going on in the world, they are able to reflect critically, to question. During a three-month working stay at the university in Sancti Spiritus, one of our board members was able to experience for herself how educated and highly motivated the students and the workers from other professions who were continuing their education were. They immersed themselves completely in group work and looked for creative solutions.

Theme: F11 Advancement of women

24.306 Establish a national mechanism to regularly monitor the impact of social and economic policies on disadvantaged groups of women such as women of African descent, elderly women, rural women and women with disabilities (Serbia); Source of position: A/HRC/39/16/Add.1 - Para. 7

(and others)

In the new constitution, there are very clear statements against discrimination against women, for example in Art. 43: "The state shall promote the integral development of women and their full social participation. It shall ensure the exercise of their sexual and reproductive rights, protect them from gender-based violence in all its manifestations and spaces, and establish the institutional and legal mechanisms for this purpose." In the new Family Code, women's protection rights are even more concrete and clear.

Even the division of labour in the household and the family is equally divided. And in the professional world, equal treatment is very clear, sometimes even explicit preference for women - for example in higher education and in the health sector. Women also play a more important role in local committees etc. than in many Western societies and companies! One expression of this is the extremely high proportion of women in Cuba's recently elected National Assembly, at 55.3%! This is - according to the International Parliamentary Union - the second highest quota of female members of the national assembly.

Theme: F12 Discrimination against women

24.308 Continue to improve the legal and governmental mechanisms in the field of promotion and protection of women's rights and enhance their participation in all development fields (Syrian Arab Republic); Source of position: A/HRC/39/16/Add.1 - Para. 7

24.298 Adopt a comprehensive strategy on combating discrimination against women (Cyprus); Source of position: A/HRC/39/16/Add.1 - Para. 8

24.299 Take special temporary measures to speed up the process of establishing real equality for women, in particular women of African descent, elderly women, women with disabilities and rural women (Democratic Republic of the Congo); Source of position: A/HRC/39/16/Add.1 - Para. 8

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Theme: F13 Violence against women

24.309 Increase the efforts that have been made to combat violence against women, and strengthen mechanisms of prevention, protection and attention to the phenomenon of violence against women (Timor-Leste); Source of position: A/HRC/39/16/Add.1 - Para. 7

24.292 Consider including in its national legislation a law on violence against women that criminalizes it in all its forms (Argentina); Source of position: A/HRC/39/16/Add.1 - Para. 8

In several articles of the new constitution as well as the Family Law, excellent and clear guidelines are given here. In the Constitution, Article 70 proclaims by way of example: "Domestic violence in any of its manifestations shall be considered destructive to the persons concerned, to families and to society and shall be sanctioned by law."

Violence in Cuban society is very low compared to neighbouring countries. Nevertheless, more protection and prevention has been built into the new constitution. For example, Art. 43 states: "The State shall promote the integral development of women and their full social participation. It shall ensure the exercise of their sexual and reproductive rights, protect them from gender-based violence in all its manifestations and spaces, and establish the institutional and legal mechanisms for this purpose."

In the new Family Act, women's protection rights are even more concrete and clear.

Theme: F31 Children: definition; general principles; protection

24.312 Take the necessary steps to highlight the activities of young people in the different sectors of society and their contribution to the country's development efforts (Algeria); Source of position: A/HRC/39/16/Add.1 - Para. 7

Art. 81: "Children and adolescents shall be considered as full subjects of rights and shall enjoy the rights recognised in this Constitution and their special status as persons in development. They are protected against all forms of violence."

In the new Family Act, children's rights are even more concrete and clear.

Theme: H1 Human rights defenders

24.194 Develop and implement specific laws, policies and mechanisms that recognize and protect the work of civil society, human rights defenders and journalists (Norway); Source of position: A/HRC/39/16/Add.1 - Para. 8

24.158 Recognize human rights monitoring as a legitimate activity, provide legal status to local human rights groups, cease using tactics that intimidate them, and allow human rights defenders and civil society to engage with the United Nations and its mechanisms (Australia); Source of position: A/HRC/39/16/Add.1 - Para. 10

The rights and protection of civil society actors, human rights groups and journalists are guaranteed. These actors enjoy a high reputation. Nevertheless, due to the subversive actions of the US and dangerous exiled Cuban groups, which are even officially supported and guided with funding and other resources from the US administration and intelligence services (US Embassy in Havana), there is a challenge to protect the sovereign country against such foreign, hostile actors and their aggressive, subversive activities. It is perfidious and obscene for the US to mobilise subversion and media attacks, and to declare and harshly criticise the protective actions of the Cuban state and people as "human rights violations". The aim of the US-backed measures is overthrow and "regime change" in Cuba - that is, something they vehemently and historically use all means to prevent in their own country.