

## **UN General Assembly Overwhelmingly Support Cuba against US Blockade**



HAVANA, Cuba, Oct 29 (acn) The Cuban Resolution on the need to lift the over-50-year US commercial, economic and financial blockade of the island was overwhelmingly approved by the UN General Assembly with 188 votes in favor.

The United States and Israel remained isolated as they continue to support the US's hostile Cuban policy, which has inflicted damage on the island estimated at over one trillion 157 billion dollars, according to recent information, plus a huge impact on the people.

Palau, which in 2012 had voted against the Cuban resolution abstained this year, along the Marshal Islands and Micronesia.

Since the resolution was first submitted to the UN vote in 1992, Cuba has received strong support from the international community. Over 180 UN states have backed the document over the past nine years.

The illegal siege posed by Washington in 1962 was further reinforced with extraterritorial laws and it constitute a flagrant violation of the Cuban people's human rights, and of those of citizens of third countries and even of the people of the United States.

## **US Blockade has Inflicted Incalculable Damage to Cuba, Foreign Minister said at the UN**

HAVANA, Cuba, Oct 29 (RHC)Cuban foreign minister Bruno Rodriguez said at the UN General Assembly on Tuesday that the damage inflicted by the US economic, commercial and financial blockade of Cuba are incalculable.

The criminal policy causes suffering and constitute a massive, flagrant and systematic violation of human rights; 76 percent of Cubans have lived under the devastating effects of the blockade since they are born, said the foreign minister as he addressed the 68 plenary session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Rodriguez recalled that the damage inflicted by the over-50-year blockade on Cuba are estimated at over one trillion 157 billion dollars.

The blockade qualifies as an act of genocide, according to article 2 of the 1948 Geneva Convention on the Prevention and the Sanction of Genocide, and as an act of economic war, according to to the Declaration on the Right of Maritime War adopted in 1909, he said.

The top diplomat stressed that the blockade was designed to submit the Cuban people to hunger and economic shortage to cause the fall of the Cuban government, as it was established in a US government memorandum dated April 6, 1960.

Minister Rodriguez said that under the Obama administration, the blockade was reinforced with the persecution of Cuban financial transactions around the world, with no respect for the laws of third countries.

Cuba cannot export or import products or services to or from the United States or use the US dollar in its transactions, including payment to international entities, said the minister and pointed out that the blockade is a hostile and unilateral act that must be ended, a discredited policy lacking ethical and legal ground as it has been proven by over 180 votes by UN member nations and statements by many heads of state and government, who participated in the debate.

## **Cuba Rejects US Groundless Justification of its Economic Blockade**

HAVANA, Cuba, Oct 30 (acn) Cuba rejected at the UN General Assembly on Tuesday the groundless justifications put forth by the United States regarding its over-50-year economic, commercial and financial blockade of the island, which was once again overwhelmingly condemned by the International Community.

Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez replied to statements made by US representative Ronald Godard who referred to the alleged US interest in supporting the Cuban people in meeting their aspirations.

Rodriguez said that Godard lied by saying that the United States promotes human rights in Cuba, because the blockade is a massive and flagrant violation of human rights and an act of genocide.

The Cuban foreign minister said that the US administration has no moral authority to address the human rights issue, given its military aggressions, which have killed millions of civilians, plus its secret jails, drone attacks, arbitrary detentions and torture of prisoners.

Minister Rodriguez said that the US representative was lying when he said that his country provides Cuba with medical items and equipment and he challenged the US official to give examples at the assembly.

The top Cuban diplomat denounced that the elements presented bby the US representative at the assembly are only related to the resources destined by Washington for its destabilization, subversion and change-of-regime policy.

Rodriguez urged Washington to put down its double standard policy and to lift the blockade against Cuba, a criminal and hostile measure that was condemned by 188 UN member states on Tuesday.

**Support to Cuba Shows US Isolation, Colombian Communist Leader Says**

Bogotá, Oct 30 (Prensa Latina) Secretary General of the Colombian Communist Party Jaime Caycedo affirmed Washington is getting more and more isolated regarding the blockade to Cuba and taking into account the support showed by the international community to lift the sanction.

Yesterday, the UN General Assembly approved with 188 votes out of 193 countries members, a draft resolution demanding the end of the economic, financial, and commercial blockade against the island, which was imposed by the US more than fifty years ago.

This confirms the fact the world is willing to demand the end of the blockade to Cuba and it is further evidence of the US' isolation from the global community, he told Prensa Latina.

For the 22nd time in a row, country member of the UN plenary supported categorically the lifting of the blockade, only rejected once again by the United States and Israel. This year Micronesia, Marshall Islands and Palau abstained from the vote.

### **CELAC, CARICOM and MERCOSUR Denounce US Blockade against Cuba**

United Nations, Oct 30 (Prensa Latina) The US blockade on Cuba totally differs from the principles of the UN Magna Carta and the international rights, denounced the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) at the UN General Assembly Tuesday.

Other organizations such as the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the South Common Market (MERCOSUR) and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, also raised their voices against the US government's blockade to Cuba.

On behalf of CELAC, Chile called its member countries to adjust their national and international actions according to the rights, obligations and principles of the UN Magna Carta, such as sovereignty, non-intervention and non-interference in the domestic affairs of the nations, the

free trade and free right of navigation.

The US blockade to Cuba enacted more than 50 years ago has caused severe economic losses to the people of Cuba, being felt in the most sensible sectors, said Chile in representation of CELAC.

The member countries of the MERCOSUR also denounced the US blockade to Cuba violates the principles of the UN Magna Carta.

Venezuela, in representation of MERCOSUR and its associated members, said the blockade also violates the equality principles among the nations.

"The measures constitute a transgression to the right to peace, development and security, it is against the regulations of the multilateral trade system, and the nature of the World Trade Organization itself," said Venezuela at the UN General Assembly.

For their part, Delano Bart, permanent representative of Saint Kitts & Nevis in the UN, and also representing CARICOM and its 14 member countries, reminded the economic losses suffered by the Cuban population and government because of the US blockade, for 53 years now.

Bart considered the social, economic and humanitarian cost of the US blockade to Cuba is becoming much more harmful, and highlighted the generosity and support given by Cuba to other countries when they have really needed it.

The CARICOM delegate said this institution is based on principles such as the adhesion to the UN Magna Carta, multilateralism, sovereignty of the states and free trade, so this regional entity maintains its solidarity with Cuba and asks the US government to stop the blockade.

The representative of the Organization for Islamic Cooperation at the UN, Roble Olhaye, also ambassador of Djibouti to the UN expressed the opinion of member states demanding the lifting

of the United States blockade on Cuba.

A total of 188 countries voted in favor of lifting the blockade against Cuba in 2012, while there were two votes against, and three abstentions.

### **Cuba again Expresses Will to Serious Dialogue with U.S.**

United Nations, Oct 29 (Prensa Latina) Cuba reiterated today before the UN General Assembly its will to go forward toward normalization of links with the United States, in a serious dialogue between equals and respect for its independence.

Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez expressed before the UN session its stand, expression of its will of peace and respectful coexistence of the Cuban government. The dangers threatening the human existence are severe and imminent, so it is indispensable a deep change in the way of dealing and solving the problems and conflicts of the world, he said.

Rodríguez detailed it is necessary to go through dialogue and cooperation, instead of selfishness and the philosophy of looting, to the use of force and coercitive economic sanctions who, silently, also hurt and kill.

It is true that between both governments there are big differences -he said- but the only productive way is to find a civilized way to treat each other as neighbors, under the respect to sovereignty and self-determination.

So, we would have to make dialogue, negotiation and even cooperation in whatever area is possible and convenient, to benefit both peoples and hemispheric relations, the minister said minutes before voting in the General Assembly to ratify for 22 consecutive years world rejection in that forum on U.S. blockade.

Cuban minister Rodríguez said the bilateral approach can be achieved and is useful, as the recent resumption of migration talks and postal service, as well as contacts to respond to oil spills, marine and air search and rescue operations, together with air security.

He stressed that president Barack Obama has the power to end the siege on Cuba.

For the diplomat it is important to listen to the United States public opinion and Cuban emigrants, whose majority supports normalization of relations and are opposed to the blockade and the prohibition to travel to the island.

Why not accept we are a nation and an independent State, equally sovereign. Wouldn't it be better to pragmatically renounce to ideological obstinacy, inherited from the previous two generations of US politicians, he sentenced.

Rodríguez denounced before the Assembly the worsening of unilateral sanctions and the human damage caused by the blockade, which he described as genocide.