

## **Strategic Military Exercise Bastion 2013 Begins Throughout Cuba**

HAVANA, Cuba, Nov 19 (acn) Army General Raul Castro, president of the Cuban Councils of State and Ministers announced Tuesday morning the beginning throughout the island of the strategic military exercise Bastion 2013, which takes place throughout the island.

This important preparation of command posts under the leadership of Cuban Communist Party and with the participation of the government, the State's Central Administration Bodies, enterprises, armed institutions and the people will wind up with National Defense Days on November 23rd and 24th.

The exercise, which runs till November 22nd, includes tactical drills by Cuban regular troops made up of young men and women, who honor their compromise with the defense of their homeland.

The defensive military program honours the statement given by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro as he delivered a main report to the First Congress of the Cuban Communist Party that "as long as imperialism exists, the Party, the State and the people will pay the closest attention to the defense of the country. Revolutionary guard can never be disregarded

In 1980, Cuba carried out the first Bastion exercise; since then, the country has enriched and improved its military doctrine based on the War of a All the People, which guarantees each citizen the resources and place, a way to fight under the leadership of the Communist Party, an article on Granma newspaper reads.

## **Military Drills Prepare Cuban People to Defend the Country**

Havana, Nov 20 (Prensa Latina) Cuba continues today the strategic exercise Bastion 2013, to raise the level of training and cohesion of all directive boards and military commands to face

enemy military aggressions.

Bastion 2013 began yesterday after Cuban President Raul Castro opened at 9:00 am local time the military drills, to be run until Friday, Nov. 22. According to the also army general and president of the National Defense Council, the exercise will run rationally, and includes the participation of the people in the National Defense Days on November 23 and 24.

The president's words opened the activities in all provinces, in which the operational dynamics simulate possible scenarios for military interventions.

The exercise includes entities from the Communist Party of Cuba, the government, the bodies of the central administration of the State, companies, units and soldiers of the Revolutionary Armed Forces and the Ministry of Interior.

All these entities act under the Cuban defensive concept of War of the Entire People, involving the whole society, and ensuring that every citizen will have a weapon, a place, and a way to defend the homeland.

### **World Activist Demand Return to Cuba of US-occupied Guantanamo**

HAVANA, Cuba, Nov 19 (acn) --Peace activists from all over the world have again demanded the restitution to Cuba of the Guantanamo Naval Base, a portion of Cuban territory illegally occupied by the United States for over a century.

The claims were issued by delegates from many countries on Monday at the inauguration in the city of Guantanamo of the Third Seminar for Peace and the Elimination of Foreign Military Bases, underway until this Wednesday.

The Seminar was opened by Silvio Platero, President of the Cuban Movement for Peace and

Sovereignty of the Peoples and is being attended by Brazilian pacifist, Maria do Socorro Gomez, Chairwoman of the World Peace Council, and former US Attorney General Ramsey Clark.

Delegates from many countries have blasted the illegality of the US Base, which is even used as a center of torture of prisoners from all over the world, who were accused of alleged terrorist activities.

The Third Seminar for Peace and the Elimination of Foreign Military Bases will close tomorrow, Wednesday, with a rally in the city of Caimanera, bordering the US base and torture center by the US military. The base was occupied by the United States last century by virtue of so-called legal instruments imposed on the then young Cuban nation.

### **Activists Demand USA Close Guantanamo Base**

Guantanamo, Cuba, Nov 18 (Prensa Latina) The Network of Intellectuals in Defense of Humankind demanded here today that the United States return to Cuba the territory occupied by the Guantanamo naval base, which was seized a century ago and now houses an illegal detention center.

In a message on the occasion of an international seminar against foreign military bases, the network, which was created in 2003, demanded the closure of that prison, where detainees are tortured and humiliated in violation of international law.

The meeting, sponsored by the World Council for Peace, has brought together 100 researchers and activists to denounce interference, imposition and disregard for others' rights.

The signatories said that setting up military bases in other countries against their will violates national sovereignty and serves the economic and political interests of imperialism.

They demanded the closure of foreign military bases and the cessation of construction of new facilities, as well as compensation for nearby residents for social and environmental damage.

### **Mexican Attorney in Solidarity with the Cuban Five**

Havana, Nov 19 (Prensa Latina) Five Cubans who were locked up in U.S. prisons in 1998 have been victims of the repression and infamy of an imperialist system that refuses to change, Mexican attorney Eduardo Lopez said today.

At Havana's international conference center, Lopez, who teaches at the National Autonomous University of Mexico, said that the men, known as the Cuban Five, had suffered unprecedented cruelty.

In his opinion, the Five were subjected to that treatment for defending democracy and the law.

Antonio Guerrero, Ramon Labañino, Fernando Gonzalez, Gerardo Hernandez and Rene Gonzalez were arrested in Miami in 1998 for monitoring groups that were organizing and financing terrorist actions against Cuba.

Rene Gonzalez is now in Cuba after completing his sentence and giving up his U.S. citizenship, but the other four remain in prison, serving long sentences.

Lopez, whose remarks were part of a master's lecture at the Law 2013 International Conference in the Cuban capital, urged participants to participate in actions in solidarity with the fight to free the Five.

Sponsored by the National Organization of Law Offices, the conference, which ends Thursday, features presentations and lectures in seven working commissions, as well as master's lectures in plenary sessions.

Participants include well-known figures such as the attorney general of the Republic of Angola, Joao Maria Moreira, and the president of the Bolivian Supreme Court's Criminal Division, Fidel Marcos Tordoya.

## **Cuban Scientific Community Contributes to the Update of Economic Model**

HAVANA, Cuba, Nov 18 (acn) The Cuban scientific community is determined to contribute to the country's strategy aimed at updating the Cuban economic model.

During a meeting of the Cuban Academy of Science participants spoke their minds about how the science, technology potential can back the implementation of the economic and social guidelines adopted by the Cuban Communist Party to improve the socialist economy.

Academy president Ismael Clark described as crucial the role of scientists in the economic development of the country.

Fidel Castro Diaz-Balart, scientific advisor to the Council of State called on the Academy to participate in the design of specific national programs and he put the climate change strategy to reduce vulnerabilities as an example.

Other experts stressed the need to strengthen relations with university commissions in charge of designing different higher education courses in order to include in those curricula the most recent advancement in the field of science and technology, particularly those that help improve the economy.

## **More than 400 Lawyers in Cuban International Congress**

Havana, Nov 19 (Prensa Latina) More than 400 delegates from Cuba and other countries in Latin America, North America, Europe and Africa are from today attending the International Congress Advocacy 2013, focusing on the management and resolution of disputes.

During the opening at the Havana Convention Center, President of the National Organization of Collective Law Offices (ONBC), Ariel Mantecon, said the event is a colophon, a moment of summary and conclusion of previous days, and preparation for the coming edition of the congress.

He explained that the vast majority of foreign participants made a economic effort to be present at the meeting, which interpreted as "a profound gesture of friendship towards lawyers and the Cuban people in general."

When talking about delegates ONBC members, Mantecon, also chairman of the Organizing Committee of the meeting said Advocacy 2013 is also the epilogue of a creative process that had its beginnings in provincial legal conferences.

He also referred to the massive presence of lawyers not members of the organization, working at legal sector entities, corporations or institutions, and highlighted the "large number of submissions received that met the quality requirements."

The Program of Advocacy 2013, which ends next Thursday, will include lectures and conferences in seven working committees and lectures.

The conference is attended by personalities such as the Attorney General of the Republic of Angola, Maria Joao Moreira, and President of the Criminal Chamber of the Supreme Court of Bolivia, Fidel Marcos Tordoya.

The ONBC is the institution that groups in Cuba to those lawyers, whose main role is to represent and defend people and legal entities before courts, administrative bodies or other institutions.

## **Cuban Physicians Have Saved More than 280 Thousand Guatemalan Lives Since 1998**

Guatemala City, November 18 (RHC).-- Members of Cuban Medical Teams working in Guatemala since 1998 have saved the lives of at least 286 thousand 141 Guatemalan patients until October 2013, according to official figures released in that Central American nation.

Statistics show that the successive Cuban Medical Brigades in Guatemala have attended in this period 35 million 431 thousand 805 patients, according to pl news agency.

Surgical operations were performed by Cuban doctors on 273 thousand 606 patients, including general surgery, gynecology, obstetrics and orthopedics.

Meanwhile the free-eye surgery program known as Operation Milagro led to surgical interventions in 122 thousand 658 patients, all of whom recovered their vision. The latter began in 2004 as a humanitarian project cosponsored by Venezuela and Cuba to help deprived Latin American residents to regain vision impaired by disease, trauma or other reasons.

## **New Partnership to Promote Germany-Cuba Artistic Ties**

Berlin, Nov 19 (Prensa Latina) The Kulturhaus-Havana Partnership (the Havana Culture House) has been founded in this German capital, attended by the group's founders, comprised of five Cubans, an Italian, and a German.

The Partnership is aimed at promoting two-way cultural exchange, and expects to bring Cuban and German artists together. Among the activities the group will organize is the creation of joint cultural activities, to ensure the participation of Cuban and German artists, the island's embassy here reported.

It will be also devoted to the promotion of cultural events in Berlin and Havana.

Andreas Wendland, president of the partnership, said the project is an idea he has held since 1973, when the World Festival of Youth and Students was held in Berlin.