



General Assembly

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Committee on Relations with the Host Country

Letter dated 14 February 2022 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Chair of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country

I am writing to you in your capacity as Chair of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country in order to take up the issue that I raised with you in my letter dated 16 December 2020, relating to the intensification of hostile protests in front of the premises of the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations.

Since the above-stated date and up to the present day, a large number of such demonstrations have been staged in front of the building of our Mission that exhibited higher levels of hostility. Noise, provocations, threats and other actions with intimidatory purposes have continued to disrupt the peace of the Mission, hampering the working environment and endangering the safety of its members, including the children and families living on the premises.

The Cuban Mission has kept the United States Mission to the United Nations duly apprised of those events through notes verbales. The most recent notes verbales were related to the protests held on 16 and 23 December 2021, when some of the relevant rules established in New York City were breached. In the course of those events, protesters blocked the normal entry to and exit from the Mission's building for staff and visitors; they also placed posters and banners on its main façade, used high-volume horns and impeded the use of the public sidewalk.

It should be pointed out that the individuals who took part in these protests have shown increasingly aggressive and provocative behaviour, even making verbal threats to use firearms and knives against officials of the Mission. Evidence of these violations can be found in videos and photos posted by these individuals on their own social media accounts, through which they have also made public photos and contact details of some officials of the Mission in a clear act of intimidation, coercion and harassment against them.

The United States authorities responsible for the diplomatic security of permanent missions have not always provided due protection to the Mission of Cuba, despite having been informed in a timely manner.

The Permanent Mission of Cuba wishes to warn, once again, that the tolerance of these acts, the lack of an appropriate response from the United States authorities and, consequently, the impunity with which these individuals operate could encourage an even more dangerous escalation of this type of act and could even lead to the



perpetration of terrorist attacks against the Mission or other activities that could pose a threat to the security of the Mission and its personnel.

It is well known that, in the past, these types of hostile demonstrations have brought about serious consequences due to their violent nature, even causing physical injuries to Cuban diplomats. It should not be forgotten that, in 2020, the Cuban Embassy in Washington, D.C., was attacked with an assault rifle by a terrorist of Cuban origin.

In view of the foregoing, I consider it appropriate to recall that, as established in the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, specifically in its article 22.2, the “receiving State is under a special duty to take all appropriate steps to protect the premises of the mission against any intrusion or damage and to prevent any disturbance of the peace of the mission or impairment of its dignity”. In this regard, it is also worth recalling the obligations of the United States government under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents.

We reiterate our rejection, in the strongest terms, of these acts and the impunity with which the individuals involved have committed crimes, made threats against Cuban officials and caused damage and harm to the premises of our diplomatic mission. In view of the above, we have once again urged the United States Mission to take all necessary steps to ensure due protection for the Mission of Cuba and its staff.

Lastly, I would be most grateful if you could have the present letter circulated as a document of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country.

(Signed) Pedro Luis **Pedroso Cuesta**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
