



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.4/2004/NGO/18
11 February 2004

ENGLISH, FRENCH
AND SPANISH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Sixtieth session
Item 9 of the provisional agenda

**QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL
FREEDOMS IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD**

**Written statement* submitted by the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU),
a non-governmental organization in general consultative status**

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[27 January 2004]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

The World Federation of Trade Unions has been demanding that the workers and the Cuban people as a whole must be aloud to construct its future peacefully.

The blockade against Cuba, imposed in a cold and calculated way by the most powerful Earth power, has meant a flagrant, massive and systematic violation of the human rights of a whole people.

Economic war that lacks of all legal foundation and, according to what it is said in incised c) of the article II of the Convention of Geneva for the Prevention and the Sanction of the Crime of Genocide, of December 9th. of 1948, qualifies like a genocide act and, therefore, it constitutes a crime of international right.

The World Federation of Trade Unions has been able to state that the human costs of such aggression are extremely heinous. It has prevented to save lives, including children and children who have not been able to receive the indispensable medicine, or to alleviate the pain and the suffering of patients because the same cause.

The blockade imposed to Cuba has caused enormous damages to its economy, considered in more than 72 billion dollars, without taking in consideration the 54 billion dollars by direct damages to economic objectives and persons because of the well-known sabotages and terrorist actions stimulated, organized and financed from the United States of America.

Projects of material and spiritual development of the society including the cultural, educational, religious, scientific, sport and others, in which innumerable social actors interact, among whom are the unions and other Cuban nongovernmental organizations, could have advanced much more if it had not been by the unjust policy of blockade and laws that accompany it.

The World Federation of Trade Unions, in contact with the Cuban workers, has appreciated how they, their families, jointly with the rest of the people, have had to suffer, to survive and to be developed in absolutely unjust and unjustifiable conditions.

It is known that the economic war against Cuba began from the same moment at which its Revolution prevails, long before that was adopted the first revolutionary measurement and that its socialist character were proclaimed.

From the beginning this economic war has been against the Cuban nation, against its independence and against all the Cuban people. Documents of the north American State Department have been published where it's expose the essence of this policy.

In a memorandum of the 24th. of June of 1959, the possibility, that later they would apply, was being considered the suppression of the Cuban sugar quota affirming it would cause that "*... the sugar industry underwent a steep and immediate fall, causing the generalization of a greater unemployment. Great amounts of people would be without work and would begin to pass hunger....* ".

In the meeting where such aggression was analyzed, the Secretary of State defined that those initial operations would constitute "*.....actions of economic war....*"

In April of the following year, in another document, somebody explained in a clearer way, which was the intention since those moments: *".....Must be quickly used any conceivable means to debilitate the economic life of Cuba [...] in order to cause hunger, desperation and the overthrow of the government....."*

Since then, it was in course a genocide policy that has lasted four decades suffered by three generations of Cubans. Under that policy were born and have been living all its life the two third parts on the present Cuban population.

To that economic war, destroying international norms, have been tried to force that other States folded to it and to make it effective, has not been let threaten and repress citizens of the United States and foreign countries. That blockade has always had an extraterritorial character.

The World Federation of Trade Unions understands that the intention of the policy of the blockade is to impose, by means of the coercion and the force, the determination of the United States to this small country despite the norms of the international right and against the will and decision of the Cuban people to defend its sovereignty and the right to the free determination. The blockade and its new outbreak are the expression of the conflict between a free and sovereign Cuba or a Cuba dependent, submissive or annexed to the United States of America.

The American administration continuous increasing the threats against Cuba and its own President has announced its intentions to harden the blockade still more.

Nevertheless, the attempts to render by hunger and diseases a whole people were condemned, almost unanimously, in the last General Assembly of the United Nations.

This last voting was not habitual in that organization, for the reason that the amount of countries that participated and approved it, and in particularly because of the level of support received. It was a clinching answer of the international community against the application of this genocide aggression.

It was a diaphanous answer to the intentions of isolate Cuba by the North American Government who has tried to internationalize his aggressive policy in all possible ways, by means of exerted pressures of all type on governments, institutions and individuals of other countries and without scrimping falsifications and distortions.

Nevertheless, the workers and the Cuban people have received, systematically, the affection and solidarity in rejection to the North American policy against them and in defense of the international right and the multilateralism, violated in a flagrant way with the blockade.

That solidarity has been demonstrated, among other samples, through aids received from institutions and organizations of workers and people including those coming from the own United States of North America whose citizens also undergo the effects of this policy that prevents them to exercise totally, their constitutional rights and liberties.

The World Federation of Trade Unions urges the governments to continue rejecting the economic blockade of the Government of the United States against Cuba and to the contained extraterritorial policies in the laws Torricelli and Helms-Burton.

We make a call to the union's organizations and other nongovernmental organizations to reinforce the reclamation for the cease of the blockade.

We appealed to the world-wide conscience to keep contributing to end the blockade with the conviction that it will be defeated, that it will have to be raised, and that the Cuban sovereignty will have to be respected ".
