



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.4/2005/G/10
29 November 2004

ENGLISH
Original: SPANISH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Sixty-first session
Item 9 of the provisional agenda

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

**Letter dated 16 November 2004 from the Permanent Mission of Cuba to
the United Nations Office at Geneva, addressed to the United Nations
High Commissioner for Human Rights**

I have the honour to transmit the text of a statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cuba in response to the lies, calumnies and false accusations levelled at Cuba by the Department of State of the United States of America in its press release entitled "Cuba: Human Rights Situation".

The United States Government is the world's leading violator of human rights. This is in fact the Government that for more than 40 years has trampled on the most basic human rights of the entire Cuban people by maintaining a cruel and genocidal economic, commercial and financial blockade. Consequently, the United States Government has no moral authority whatsoever to bring any accusations against Cuba, much less to do so by means of the anti-Cuban lies and diatribes with which it attempts to justify its aggressive and hostile policy towards our country.

In this connection, I would be grateful if the text of the statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs* annexed to this letter could be published as an official document of the sixty-first session of the Commission on Human Rights, under agenda item 9.

(Signed): Jorge Iván Mora Godoy
Ambassador

* Annex reproduced as received in the language of submission and English only.

Annex

Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Cuba rejects United States Government calumnies

On 4 November 2004, the United States Department of State issued a press release entitled "Cuba: Human Rights Situation", containing the usual lies, calumnies and accusations against Cuba concerning alleged human rights violations.

The press release states that, in March 2003, Cuba unleashed "a sweeping crackdown on independent civil society activists". This is a bare-faced lie by the Department of State. The Cuban courts, acting in accordance with Cuban law, punished not activists but mercenaries who were given orders and large amounts of money by the United States Government to carry out illegal acts within Cuba to further its policy of blockade and aggression against this country. Conspiring with a foreign Power is a crime in any country, including the United States.

International public opinion might quite reasonably have hoped that, in the wake of the revelations concerning the incredible abuses and violations of human rights committed in the prisons of Iraq and at the illegal naval base at Guantánamo, the United States Government would adopt a more rational, less arrogant stance when considering the situation of human rights in any country in the world. Yet, barely two days after the United States elections, it quickly renewed its offensive against Cuba in this surprising fashion.

The United States Government has no moral authority whatsoever for levelling accusations at Cuba. The United States Government is the world's leading violator of human rights. It is that Government which, by means of a cruel, inhuman and genocidal blockade, has for more than 40 years violated the human rights of the entire Cuban people. It is President Bush who has with such ferocity stepped up this aggressive and hostile policy to unprecedented levels in his obsessive desire to crush the Cuban revolution.

The Cuban people are well aware that Bush and his closest allies in the anti-Cuban mafia are uncomfortable with the example set by Cuba in terms of social justice, genuine democracy and respect for human rights. We stand for a viable political, economic and social alternative which is diametrically opposed to the ideals of world domination and unilateral hegemonism that the current leaders of the United States Government are attempting to impose.

It is the United States Administration which, in flagrant violation of the principles of international law, creates, organizes and funds cells of ruthless mercenaries with annexationist objectives to engage, together with the United States Interests Section in Havana, in illegal activities against the constitutional order of the Republic of Cuba.

It is the United States Government that allows anti-Cuban organizations within its territory to plan, organize and conduct terrorist activities against Cuba, while unjustly holding five young Cuban anti-terrorist fighters in prison, under incredibly harsh conditions including isolation.

It is the United States Administration that violates the rights of millions of American citizens by prohibiting them from travelling to or conducting business with Cuba, or even appreciating Cuban art and culture. This shows yet again how they fear the achievements of the revolution, which leaves them no choice but to resort to lies.

They are further mistaken if they believe that with spurious accusations and diatribes against Cuba they will alter the course of the revolution or the unshakeable determination of our people to defend their independence to the last drop of blood.

It is regrettable that only hours after the 2 November elections we find ourselves compelled to speak these truths.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Havana, 5 November 2004
