



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
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**STATEMENT BY Ms. CLAUDIA PEREZ, DELEGATE OF CUBA TO THE THIRD COMMITTEE UNDER AGENDA ITEMS 69 A), B) AND 70: ELIMINATION OF RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, COMPREHENSIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF AND FOLLOW UP TO THE DURBAN DECLARATION AND PROGRAMME OF ACTION; RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION.  
NEW YORK, NOVEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup>, 2005.**

Mr. Chairman:

Racial discrimination constitutes one of the manifestations of the exploitation of men by their own kind that we have suffered for centuries, and it perpetuates itself in a world in which wealth is unfairly distributed.

Cuba shares the concern expressed by the Special Rapporteurs of the Commission on Human Rights in their relevant reports on the issue of the Elimination of racism and racial discrimination, and reiterates that there is no possible democracy, human rights or real freedom if we still have to deal with racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia.

With the rise to power of right-wing parties –based on xenophobic and anti-immigrant ideas-- in many developed countries, and after the tragic events of September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001, that trend continues to grow and as a result of that, civilizations and religions such as Islam are being especially slandered, with the objective to discredit and even “demonize” them.

Mr. Chairman:

The brutal beating of Robert Davis – a black elderly -- by police officers of New Orleans, the bleeding to death of Filiberto Ojeda – the fighter for the independence of Puerto Rico -- caused by FBI agents, the mistreatment to Mexican immigrants, and the tortures and humiliations happening on a daily basis at the Guantanamo Naval Base are just examples of the consequences of a philosophy based on the superiority of a race over the other.

In this context, Cuba calls upon the immediate implementation of the actions relevant to the Third World Conference on Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, held in Durban, South Africa.

Cuba reiterates that our main challenge should be the fulfillment of putting into practice those agreements, while new initiatives should be promoted, to find a response to key issues that went unanswered at Durban.

Mr. Chairman:

In an arbitrary and fundamentalist way, the transnational circles of power are developing a project of "peaceful" domination, which aims to impose a unique politic and economic model that facilitates their control and ideological domination of the world. In short, there is an attempt to restrict the cultural diversity and the full enjoyment of the right of our peoples to self determination.

Cuba endured colonialism, foreign occupation and neocolonial domination, and for that reason feels as its own the cause of other peoples for which self determination continues to be denied.

In this regard, Cuba supports the right of the Puerto Rican people to its self determination, and demands the immediate withdrawal of Israeli troops from all the occupied Arab territories, including Palestine and the Syrian Golan, as well as the full respect for the inalienable right of the Palestinian people to establish its own independent and sovereign State.

Mr. Chairman:

Currently, a hegemonic power gives itself the unilateral right to attack any country in the world, as a pre-emptive action.

That is the same power that, for over 46 years, has carried out serious actions against the right of the Cuban people to self determination, among them, the support to a mercenary invasion, the threat of a nuclear attack, several plots to assassinate its main leaders, the illegal occupation of Cuban territory by the Naval Base in Guantanamo, and the implementation of a genocidal blockade, strengthened by the new measures and a Plan that desperately aims for the annexation of Cuba, and disregards the overwhelming rejection of the international community concerning that obsolete policy.

That is the same power that has promoted, organized and financed numerous mercenary actions with terrorist purposes that have caused thousands of victims to the Cuban people. Today, and with total impunity and the complicity of the authorities, terrorist organizations like the Cuban-American Foundation recruit mercenaries to be used in actions against Cuba, some of whom are disguised as defenders of the human rights.

That is the same power that in its self-assigned role as the global champion of the human rights and in the middle of an anti-terrorist campaign, welcomes in its territory the notorious international terrorist Luis Posada Carriles, responsible for the destruction of a Cubana de Aviación aircraft in October, 1976, killing 73 innocent civilians, and many other actions against Cuban and foreign citizens, including people from the United States. This man is the one that, in 1997, organized a campaign of sabotage with bombs

carried out in hotels of Havana City, taking the life of the young Italian Fabio Di Celmo, and he also was the mastermind of an action against President Fidel Castro during the Ibero-American Summit, held in Panama, 2000.

Currently, Posada Carriles is under the protection of immigration authorities of the United States, he is being treated with all the consideration, and there is a plan designed to allow him to stay in this country. Nevertheless, the request for extradition submitted by the Government of Venezuela to the authorities of the United States is still in force, but the Government of the United States remains silent, violating the regulations established in the treaty of extradition agreed by the two countries.

In this regard Cuba wishes to highlight the special communiqué that was clearly and unequivocally adopted by the Heads of State of the Ibero-American community, in the recent XV Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government, held in Salamanca, Spain in October 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, 2005, that supports the efforts to fulfill the extradition of Luis Posada Carriles to Venezuela.

Mr. Chairman:

The Cuban people knows the high price of the right to self-determination. The abhorrent plan against Cuba and its sovereignty, violating the basic principles of the international cooperation, will only contribute to the further union of our people and to strengthen its fighting spirit.

Thank you very much.