

"We are realists...we dream the impossible" - Che

"The truth must not only be the truth...it must also be told" - Fidel



FIRE THIS TIME

Revolutionary Voices Newsletter

March 2024



Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel: Fidel Castro's words on Palestinian issue are valid

President Miguel Díaz-Canel stressed the validity of the statements made by the historic leader of the revolution, Fidel Castro, on the Palestinian issue, expressed 44 years ago at the United Nations.

"...the Palestinian issue is the core of the Middle East problem," the Commander-in-Chief of the Cuban revolution said in a speech before the plenary session of the United Nations General Assembly

on October 12, 1979, Díaz-Canel recalled.

The Cuban head of State pointed out on his X account that this continues to be the essence of the problem today, and ratified invariable policy of principles of his country, which practices solidarity with the heroic Palestinian people, systematically attacked by Israel for more than seven decades.

In that memorable speech at

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" The revolutionary movement has been brought up in the hatred of racial discrimination and pogroms of any kind, and from the depths of our souls, we repudiate with all our strength the ruthless persecution and genocide which, in its time, Nazism unleashed against the Jewish people. But I can find nothing more similar to that in our contemporary history than the eviction, persecution and genocide that is being carried out today against the Palestinian people by imperialism and Zionism. Stripped of their lands, driven out of their own homeland, dispersed throughout the world, they are an impressive example of abnegation and heroism, and they are the living symbol of the greatest crime of our times. "

COMANDANTE FIDEL AT THE 34TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IN NEW YORK CITY ON 12 OCTOBER OF 1979

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the UN, before an audience eager to hear Cuba's message, and speaking on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement as well, Fidel Castro condemned Israel's policy of aggression, colonialism and expansionism.

He also denounced the colonial settlements on Palestinian territories that had been occupied by force by the Zionist Government with the unconditional support of the United States, which, according to Fidel Castro, "is a serious threat to world peace and security."

"The basis for a just peace in the region begins with the total and unconditional withdrawal of Israel from all occupied Arab territories, and implies for the Palestinian people the return of all their occupied territories and the recovery of their inalienable national rights," Fidel Castro said in that historic speech.

The Cuban leader then noted that

these rights include the return of thousands of displaced persons to their homeland, self-determination and the establishment of an independent State in Palestine, according to General Assembly Resolution 3236.

From: plenglish.com



Above:
Cuban President Miguel Díaz Canel receives keffiyeh from a Palestinian student studying medicine in Cuba.



Cuba says: STOP THE GENOCIDE IN GAZA

Presentation of the Republic of Cuba to the International Court of Justice

THE HAGUE, FEBRUARY 21, 2024

Our delegation appears before this solemn sitting as an expression of Cuba's genuine interest in and commitment to peace and based on its historical and unconditional solidarity with the peoples that are subject to colonialism and foreign domination.

The Palestinian people, its girls, boys, women and civilian population as a whole, continue to be massacred due to the illegal use of force by Israel, the Occupying Power.

All this takes place with the complicity of countries such as the United States of America, responsible under international law for genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and the Apartheid regime that determines where people can live, work and move around depending on their ethnic and religious backgrounds.

Honorable Magistrates, we and you bear the high moral, historical and legal responsibility to pronounce ourselves in a clear, transparent and forceful manner on

the ignominious situation of the Palestinian people and to demand international responsibility for what is happening in the occupied territories ...

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Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel: History will not forgive those who are indifferent

Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel received on Sunday, November 19, 2023, 144 Palestinian students studying medicine in Cuba at the Revolutionary Palace in Havana, including 53 students from the Gaza Strip.

"It is a great honour and pride to be able to embrace them all... Our country stands and will continue to stand by the cause of the brotherly Palestinian people," Diaz-Canel told the gathering, adding that his country has portrayed the best model of international solidarity in the world as it practises true solidarity and defence of humanity, not only in words but in deeds.

Canel stressed that Palestinian youth in Cuba "have not lost their roots, but on the contrary, through the feelings and life stories they shared with us, they also express their firm conviction to defend their homeland."

The Cuban Prime Minister, Manuel Marrero, and Foreign Minister, Bruno Rodriguez, attended the meeting, in addition to other officials of the Cuban Communist Party.

During the meeting, the Palestinian students presented the Palestinian keffiyeh to the Cuban president and members of his government, as an expression of their gratitude for Cuba's position, stressing the need to exert more pressure on the international community to stop the Israeli occupation and its ongoing aggression against the Gaza Strip.

"History will not forgive those who are indifferent," warned Cuba's President Miguel Diaz-Canel Bermudez during his speech at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP28) the UAE. "My first words are to express my support and solidarity with Palestine and its heroic people who resist. We call for an end to the violence and genocide in Gaza. Enough impunity for Israel, the occupying power."

Granma, December 12, 2023

www.granma.cu/idiomas/ingles/index.html

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The United Nations Charter ... recognizes as one of its purposes “respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples”, which are systematically and flagrantly denied to the Palestinian people ...

The presence of Israeli settlements in the occupied territories, the forced changes to the demography of the Palestinian people through land occupation and forced displacement of people, the construction of the separation wall, the control exercised over their natural resources and the restrictions imposed on their mobility, undermine and deny the ability of Palestinians to exercise their right to self-determination.

Land, sea and air blockades constitute collective punishment and are extreme violations of freedom of movement and the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights...

The genocide against the Palestinian people is not limited to the current stage of the extermination war being waged by Israel. All this with the complicit attitude of the United States of America, which prevents the international

community from acting to protect the Palestinian people. The justifications for fighting terrorism and exercising the right to self-defense are deceitful when they are raised by the aggressors themselves ...

Taken as a whole, this institutionalized violence, which makes no distinction between civilians and combatants, is part of a broader policy that also includes, in a systematic and organized manner: massive confiscations of land and property, unlawful killings, extrajudicial executions, torture, administrative detentions, forced transfers, restrictions on movement and the denial of nationality and citizenship to the Palestinian population.

There is also a discriminatory economic and cultural policy aimed at impoverishing the Palestinian population

and denying the realization of their fundamental human rights.

The International Court of Justice should make a general assessment of this situation so as to determine the legal implications resulting from it. In this regard, the Republic of Cuba believes that, rather than an obvious apartheid regime situation, prosecuted as a crime against humanity, this is an act of low-intensity genocide that is perpetrated with systematic and effective cruelty. To qualify Israel’s actions merely as acts of Apartheid would leave out the implicit intention to exterminate the

United Nations from taking action; those who oppose an immediate ceasefire and the delivery of humanitarian aid; those who, for years, have supported each and every one of the policies and practices of Israel, the Occupying Power, which deny the existence of the Palestinian people and their rights. This agenda, to a large extent, has advanced unabatedly in the course of time.

We are convinced that this Court should not wait for the complete extermination of an entire nation before ruling on the matter. That was the intention United Nations’ General Assembly in requesting the Advisory Opinion.

The terrible situation currently facing the Palestinian people is a reminder of the urgency of a clear and consistent statement on the questions submitted to the consideration of the Court ...

In all these years, the United States of America has systematically and consistently overused its veto to prevent any effective action by the Security Council and to ensure impunity for the Occupying Power, Israel, despite the statements of the United Nations General Assembly.

The International Court of Justice should emphasize the scope of Article 2.5 of the United Nations Charter, which states that all members “shall refrain from giving assistance to any State against which the United Nations is taking preventive or enforcement action.”...

The international community requires a pronouncement that makes it clear to those responsible that today they may use their force against the innocent civilians, but this force will not be enough to spare them from justice.



Cuba's Prime Minister Manuel Marrero, Cuba's President Miguel Diaz-Canel, and his wife Lis Cuesta march in support of Palestine in Havana, Cuba on Nov 23, 2023

Palestinian people, either in part or as an ethnic and religious group to whom the right to self-determination is denied.

In case there was any doubt about the arguments that Cuba presented to the Court in its Brief a few months ago, the current situation, that is taking place in the eyes of all, confirms the ongoing genocide.

Innocent victims, girls, boys, women, civilians in general, number in the thousands.

For the Genocide Convention to apply, the life of one single victim, or the incitement, attempt or conspiracy to commit such acts would be enough.

The Convention against Genocide also punishes the accomplices and instigators; those who veto decisions and prevent the international community and the

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POSTCARD CAMPAIGN CUBA IS NOT A SPONSOR OF TERROR!

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From (Name):
To: U.S. President Joe Biden,
→ On January 11, 2021, the Trump administration accused Cuba of "repeatedly providing support for acts of international terrorism in granting safe harbor to terrorists". This false accusation was weaponized against Cuba because of Cuba's role in facilitating the internationally recognized Cuban-Libya peace accords.
→ Leaving Cuba unjustly on the "State Sponsors of Terrorism" list is harming the Cuban people.
→ Being on this U.S. government list means a publishing series of sanctions and international financial restrictions on Cuba, which are limiting Cuba's ability to engage in critical financial transactions, not only with the U.S. but also internationally.
→ Leaving Cuba on this list is indefensible, as Cuba works to recover and rebuild its economy after the Covid-19 pandemic, and other challenges - such as the devastating Matanzas fire and Hurricane Ian.
→ The world community recognizes that Cuba has a long history of providing healthcare and saving lives around the world. Cuba has nothing to do with "sponsoring terror".
In signing this postcard, we call on you to remove Cuba from your list immediately. This injustice cannot stand.

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Cuba calls for an end to Israel's ongoing genocide against the Palestinian people

New York, March 5, 2024

Cuba reiterated, today, at United Nations, the urgent need to achieve a comprehensive, just and lasting solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, based on the creation of two States, which would allow the Palestinian people to exercise their right to self-determination and to have an independent and sovereign State within the pre-1967 borders.

This was stated by Ambassador Gerardo Peñalver Portal, first vice minister of Foreign Affairs and Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations in the debate under resolution A/Res/76/262, after the veto issued by the United States at the meeting of the Security Council on Palestine, last February 20th.

Regarding the situation in Gaza, Peñalver Portal warned that the United Nations cannot remain silent in the face of collective punishment,



Ambassador Gerardo Peñalver Portal, first vice minister of Foreign Affairs and Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations

serious violations of the International Humanitarian Law and war crimes and crimes against humanity committed by the Israeli government.

"Nothing justifies the ongoing genocide against the Palestinian people, preceded by decades of illegal occupation, colonization, dispossession of their lands and apartheid practices," denounced the Cuban vice foreign minister.

Since the escalation of violence in Gaza, this is the third time the United States has vetoed a Security Council resolution on Palestine, which called for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire. In this regard, the Cuban diplomat called on the US government to stop using the undemocratic and obsolete power of veto to protect Israel.

"Double standards, selectivity and political manipulation, which undermine the cause of international peace and security, must stop once and for all," he said.

Before concluding his remarks, Peñalver Portal reaffirmed Cuba's willingness to contribute to legitimate international efforts to put an end to the current situation.

Source: *Cubaminrex-Permanent Mission of Cuba to the UN*



* The killed number includes those presumed dead under the rubble

Let Cuba Live!

Excerpt from the speech of Cuban Minister of Foreign Affairs Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla at the United Nations in New York, November 2, 2023.

For more than six decades Cuba has resisted a ruthless economic, commercial and financial blockade. More than 80 per cent of our current population has only known a blockaded Cuba.

The US government has not ceased in its efforts to deprive our country from indispensable financial revenues, depress the living standards of the population, impose a continued shortage of foodstuffs, medicines and other basic inputs and bring about an economic collapse.

In a vicious way and with a surgical precision, the US is attacking the most sensitive sectors of the economy. It deliberately intends to cause the highest possible damage to Cuban families.

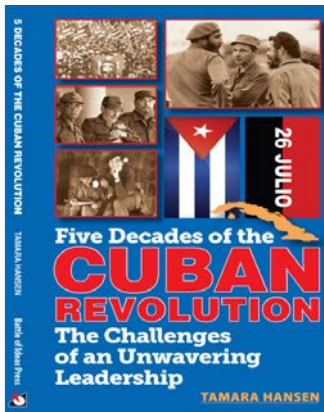
The blockade is an act of economic warfare in times of peace, aimed at annulling the government's capability to attend to the needs of the people, create a situation of ungovernability and destroy the constitutional order...

That is the nature of and those are the purposes pursued by the economic coercion and maximum pressure policy, that is being applied by the current US administration against Cuba.

Scan for full speech



Battle of Ideas Press 5 Decades of the Cuban Revolution The Challenges of an Unwavering Leadership



By Tamara Hansen
Coordinator of Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba (VCSC). She is also an editorial board member of The Fire This Time newspaper. She has travelled to Cuba over a dozen times and has written extensively on Cuban politics since 2003.

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