



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
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STATEMENT BY THE DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CUBA, AMBASSADOR ILEANA NÚÑEZ MORDOCHE, ON ITEM 108 "MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM". New York, 11 October 2007.

Mr. President,

The Republic of Cuba joins the statement made by NAM on this issue and wishes to reiterate its steadfast determination to cooperate in the fight against international terrorism.

As a basic principle, we express our deepest rejection to all acts, methods and practices of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations wherever and by whomsoever committed, whatever its motivations, including those in which States are directly or indirectly involved.

Measures to eliminate international terrorism must be based on the strict respect to the UN Charter, the principles of international law and Humanitarian International Law. They cannot be arbitrary and unilateral measures leading to preemptive wars, acts of aggression, covered-up actions, unilateral sanctions or the drafting of politically-motivated "lists" or certifications of countries, all of which can lead unequivocally to a situation of true international chaos.

Mr. President,

Cuba believes that is important to continue to work to conclude the General Convention on international terrorism, with a view to eliminate the gap in instruments adopted by the General Assembly in the prevention and repression of international terrorism. In order for this Convention to be "general", it must provide a clear definition of such crime, and must be rid of selectivity and national interest purporting to be above those aimed at achieving international peace and security. It must include the activities of the armed forces that are not regulated by Humanitarian International Law, as well as a clear distinction between terrorism and the peoples' struggle for their independence and in defense of their right to self-determination.

Likewise, my delegation considers important that the States meet the World Strategy to Combat Terrorism, adopted on September 8 last year, as a major instrument that shall guide, hereinafter, our actions against this scourge, which has claimed so many innocent lives trough out history.

Mr. Chairman,

Cuba has never allowed nor will it allow its national territory to be used to carry out, mastermind or finance terrorist acts against any other State. Cuba is one of three countries to ratify the 12 first international instruments on international terrorism and is currently in a constitutional process to become a State party to the Convention on terrorism and has adopted internal non-legislative measures to fight this scourge. Likewise, Cuba cooperates with and abides by Resolution 1373 (2001) of the Security Council contributing comprehensive reports on the issue to the Committee on Terrorism.

However, the US government unilaterally includes Cuba in the yearly list of States that supposedly sponsor international terrorism. Although with total impunity, funds are granted and collected in Miami and other cities of this country to carry out terrorist acts, terrorists are recruited, weapons are supplied, a safe haven is provided and free use of the territory is allowed to those who finance, mastermind and commit terrorist acts against Cuba.

Mr. Chairman,

The most telling case in point is its failure to prosecute or extradite international terrorist Luis Posada Carriles, whose extradition was claimed by Venezuela in June 2005.

He is the mastermind of the downing of a Cubana de Aviacion airliner in October 1976, claiming the lives of 76 innocent civilians, of the bombings of tourist resorts in Havana in 1997, and of dozens of US-financed plans to assassinate the Commander in Chief of the Cuban Revolution, Fidel Castro Ruz, are just some of the facts their author has even admitted to having committed.

Last May 8 of this year, in a despicable act, the US authorities released the notorious terrorist definitively. He was been tried on migration fraud and for lying to the US migration authorities. All this in spite of the fact that the US Migration and Customs Service recognized in a letter that "due to his long record of criminal activities and acts of violence, which caused the death of innocent civilians, releasing him would pose a danger for the community and national security of the United States."

It would have been the right time to try this notorious terrorist for his long record, for the US government has all the evidence of his terrorist acts and even his public confession about the commission of these acts.

Nevertheless, the US government continues to protect Posada Carriles, who has been rightly called the most notorious terrorist of the western hemisphere, and who today roams freely the streets of Miami without charges against him. Another responsible for the mid-air bombing of the Cubana jetliner, Orlando Bosch, also enjoys full freedom in Miami, and publicly boasts about his numerous terrorist acts against Cuba in the Miami press.

This gives rise to the question of where are President Bush's threatening statements that anyone who harbored a terrorist in its territory would be deemed as one. Or is it that there are double-standards to classify terrorists or some sort of "good" or tolerated terrorism when peoples like Cuba are attacked?

Mr. Chairman,

In contrast to the afore mentioned, five Cubans whose only crime was fighting terrorism precisely in Miami, where, tolerated by the authorities, actions against Cuba are still masterminded, received long terms and who in the next few month will have been 10 years in the empire's prison.

Cuba believes that a sincere path in this fight against terrorism should be opened and impunity and double-standards must be avoided by all means. Terrorism must be rejected in any circumstance. The States should work closer in the fight against this scourge, based on respect for sovereignty and non-interference in the States' internal affairs. Selectivity and the mean quest of the usual powerful to size territories to satisfy their insatiable hunger for strategic resources by the must cease.

Thank you.