



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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**STATEMENT BY ABASSADOR RODRIGO MALMIERCA DÍAZ, PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF CUBA TO THE UNITED NATIONS.
AGENDA ITEM 67: PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS. C)
HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS, INCLUDING ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES FOR
IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ENJOIMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND
FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS.
NEW YORK, 28 OCTOBER 2006**

Mr. Chairman,

We were hopeful that, after the creation of the Human Rights Council and the alleged interest of some powerful to open a new era for cooperation, the advancement of genuine cooperation in human rights matters would be fostered.

However, we observe that the developed countries have turn aside again from the promotion of dialogue, ignoring guiding principles of cooperation defined in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action such as objectivity, impartiality and non-selectivity, as well as the universality of human rights in harmony with the diversity of cultures and political, economic and social systems.

What matters for these countries is imposing selectivity, political manipulation and double-standards, with a view to impose a biased approach of human rights which is "supposedly civilized and without guilt".

Once again, the former colonizers are trying to appear as the champions of human rights. These modern inquisitors' grave sins go unpunished and they close ranks to apply half measures to their blatant violations of human rights.

In keeping their practice of judging others from the altar they made for themselves, it would appear as if there are no problems in the North. We are not going to reproduce the long assessments containing forged, incomplete and manipulated information, but we are going to place on the record some problems of those who fancy themselves the great prosecutors of the world.

Mr. Chairman,

The statement of the US delegation was an unprecedented display of cynicism. Once again, the wealthiest and most powerful country in history, but also the main mass and systematic violator of human rights, tries to appear, under the aegis of its power, as the champion of human rights.

While the United States continues to repeat its meaningless, hypocrite and long statements, full of slanders against others but concealing their many sins, the Bush Administration claims and legislate for itself the right to practice torture as a means to counter terrorism; to detain arbitrarily and deprive numerous human beings of their most basic rights from simple suspicions of links to terrorism; to spy on their own citizens; and even to bomb cities in the name of liberty and democracy.

With what morals can the US government demand anything from any other nation on the issue that we are addressing when their troops overtly torture prisoners in Abu Graib; they transport prisoners to be tortured on secret CIA flights through the civilized and democratic Europe and profane and offend the most sacred feelings of Muslims the world over?

Let us recall that recently, in analyzing the violations committed in the US government's detention center based in an illegally occupied territory in Guantánamo, five especial mechanisms of the Human Rights Commission condemned the aforementioned government's attempt to legalize torture. These experts also criticized, as we have been reminded in the last few days, the US administration's attempt, against all legality, to set itself up as judge, prosecutor and defense attorney; and to violate international human rights instruments which Washington itself is a party to.

What example does this tin-pot champion, who continues to make walls a symbol, believe it is giving, by building a wall south to the Bravo river, which claims, in human lives terms, hundreds of times more than what it is said to have been lost during the 28 years of the Berlin wall's existence? Several hundreds of persons die every year trying to enter the United States.

The US society is the paradigm of police abuse, racial discrimination and xenophobia, and overcrowded jails, in which there is a clear differentiated racial pattern in the inmate population to the detriment of Negroes and Latinos. Here, death penalty is quite easily applied, never or exceptionally against a white citizen, therefore electric chairs, gas chambers and lethal injections work constantly and impressively for Negroes, Hispanics and Third-World immigrants.

This supposed champion of democracy and liberty is the same who has subjected Cuba to a genocidal economic, financial and commercial blockade, in an attempt to strangle an entire people by hunger and illness. It is the country that shamelessly intervenes in Cuba's internal affairs; overtly organizes, promotes and finances subversive and terrorist actions against Cuba; and they try to undermine the Cuban society and overthrow the legitimately constituted government.

Those who claim for themselves the leadership in Rule of Law matters and say to be in war against terrorism, harbor notorious terrorists and prevent them from being tried. Notice the case of Luis Posada Carriles, confessed mastermind, among other aberrations, of the mid-air bombing of a Cuban airliner carrying 73 persons.

Mr. Chairman,

Liberty and democracy are not the exclusive patrimony of the countries of the North, to which no one has granted powers to judge and determine the political and social system of other equally sovereign States. To Cuba, its liberty and democracy has cost long years of fight against the US imperialism and its accomplices and it will not relinquish its independence.

The defamation against the Cuban Revolution responds to the forceful search for justifications to the obtuse policy of blockade against my country. The attempts to demonize Cuba prove that the manipulation of the cooperation in human rights matters turns the debate of this topic into a typical domination instrument.

In order to change the world's situation it is necessary, first of all, to reverse the current unipolar, unjust and unequal international order.

Thank you.