

### **Contribution to the discussion:**

**Why Building a united front Cuba-focused Committee is important to defending Cuban sovereignty. It is what Cuba needs!**

**We need to give serious thought to what Cuban leaders say...what they write and cover in their media to think out the most effective strategies and tactics for the LAHOC**

**Special meeting with Lowell and Mark and Cuban Trade union leaders, CTC international representatives, students**

"We thank you for your continued support in defending Cuba. We give our unconditional support to the *LA Hands-Off Cuba Committee*, your activities, and the formation of your broad democratic committee involving organizations, unions, political activists, and individuals. Your committee takes the moral high ground in defending Cuba." said **Miguel Angel Alvarez, North American International Relations Director, CTC** (Central Trabajadores Cubana - national Cuban union association 15 different unions of millions of Cuban workers).

The purpose of this special meeting, he explained, is to "discuss the type of activities organized by the LAHOC, how it functions, and to use it as a model for others organizing internationally." In his introduction, he described its composition of 50 organizations, unions, political groups, and individual activists on the basis of unity around 3 demands: 1. Remove Cuba from Washington's list of "state sponsor of terrorism nations" (SSOT), 2. End the blockade, trade, and travel bans and 3. End the 243 sanctions imposed by the US against Cuba.

**Quotes from CTC paper *Trabajadores*:** <https://www.trabajadores.cu/20230710/no-hablo-de-cuba-con-el-fbi/>

"We founded the **Hands-off Cuba Committee** in Los Angeles, but it has spread to other cities and states. We seek to create a broad, democratic front that is linked to dissimilar causes.

"Our three-point demands —an end to the blockade, the lifting of all sanctions, and that Cuba be removed from the list of terrorist countries— has found support in diverse communities, such as that of the Filipinos who demand the removal of military bases. from the Asian archipelago, that of the San Diego and Los Angeles teachers, who are demanding better wages; the Koreans who ask for the reunification of their peninsula; and also, among a part of the Cuban community based in Los Angeles."

"The **LA Hands Off Cuba Committee's** strategy is to disseminate the reality of Cuba, seeking to arouse interest and the desire to know, first-hand, what is happening in the Caribbean nation. **Hands off Cuba** currently has 40 activists in Los Angeles, an average audience of 75 people in face-to-face activities, and another 1,600 with whom they stay connected via email.

"We arrive at the mobilizations with printed propaganda that we made ourselves. For example, we made a flyer that talks about the spaces conquered by women, entitled *Women in Cuba: Revolution within the Revolution*. Other texts are *Why There are no George Floyds in Cuba?* and a briefing on the new *Family Code*. Out of every thousand that we distribute, we receive 1 or 2 requests from people who want to know more about Cuba, some join the movement and that is perfect".

**Granma interview:7.14** <https://www.granma.cu/mundo/2023-07-10/mas-de-tres-millones-de-libros-escolares-se-han-dejado-de-producir-en-cuba-por-el-bloqueo>

"This was stated to *Granma* by Mark Friedman, coordinator of the group "Hands off Cuba" based in Los Angeles, in which young people, trade unionists and other groups from various cities in the northern country participate. Their demands include the urgency of excluding Cuba from the list of countries that sponsor terrorism and that normality be achieved in diplomatic relations between the two countries.

"We promote the visit of Americans to Cuba, we participate in the solidarity activities that take place the last weekend of each month; I'm talking about caravans, public events, messages on social networks" said the activist.

He added that this organization also participates in street demonstrations against police repression, for the guarantees and rights of workers, in favor of migrants, for feminism and for the legalization of abortion, against the military incursions of the army. Israeli in the Palestinian territories, of war and for world peace. "In all these spaces we carry the national symbols of Cuba and we talk about the Cuban Revolution as the main beacon to follow in our struggles."

This was supported by 28-year-old Lowell Iporac, a marine biologist of Filipino descent who lives in the city of Miami, Florida. "I participate in Miami in the car and motorcycle caravans once a month, the last weekends, coordinated by various solidarity groups, mainly by **Puentes de Amor**, which mobilizes people from all over the country with the demand to eliminate the blockade on Cuba," said the scientist who recently visited Havana to present his experiences at the National Aquarium in dealing with the phenomenon of *Sargasso*, which affects the Caribbean Sea and mainly the beaches.

**Resumen Latinoamericano** <https://cubaenresumen.org/2023/07/15/los-angeles-california-cuba-off-the-list/>

"One group is based in Los Angeles, others in San Diego, Cleveland and Arizona, and they make their demands in caravans, rallies and demonstrations. "Our committee is a little different from others in the United States because it has a very diverse membership, especially from mechanics unions and others," explains Mark Friedman, noting that it is made up of 50 prominent organizations and individuals. He adds that the crisis of capitalism offers an opportunity to organize more youth and more unions in the fight against the blockade and to remove Cuba from the list of terrorist nations. *For the first time, there are groups of unions, union activists, environmental movements and others". The important thing, he emphasizes, is that we are on a united front in the fight for the sovereignty of Cuba and against the blockade".*

**Interviews also published here:** <http://boletinbohio.com/delegacion-de-ee-uu-en-cuba-conferencia-ambiental-y-encuentros-sindicales/>