

# Parliamentary Petition to the Government of Canada Against the U.S. Blockade on Cuba!



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**SIGN**



**Viva Cuba!**

**#UnblockCuba #LetCubaLive**

**GET INVOLVED IN VANCOUVER COMMUNITIES  
IN SOLIDARITY WITH CUBA (VCSC)**

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# Lift the Blockade on Cuba Over 60 years of criminal U.S. policy

➤ 25 days of blockade equals the financing required to cover the needs of the country's Basic Drug List for one year (approximately 339 million dollars).

➤ 9 days equals the amount required to import medical consumables (cotton, gauze, syringes, needles, sutures, catheters, equipment for serum, among other supplies) and reagents necessary for the national health system for one year (129 million dollars).

➤ 21 hours of embargo is equal to the cost of acquiring the insulin needed to cover the country's demand for one year (US\$12 million).

➤ 18 days is equal to the annual cost of maintenance (excluding fuel and investments) of the National Electric Power System (US\$250 million).

➤ 4 months correspond to the amount to guarantee, for one year, the delivery of the standardized family basket of products to the population (1.6 billion dollars).

➤ 38 hours reach the same level as the price of production/acquisition of the material basis of study required by the country to cover the needs of the educational system for one year (21 million 789 000 dollars).

➤ If the blockade were to cease for eight hours, Cuba would be able to acquire the toys and teaching aids for all the kindergarten in the country (4,500,000 dollars).

➤ Half an hour is equivalent to the cost

of the electric and conventional wheelchairs required to meet the needs of the country's special education system (US\$ 256,363).

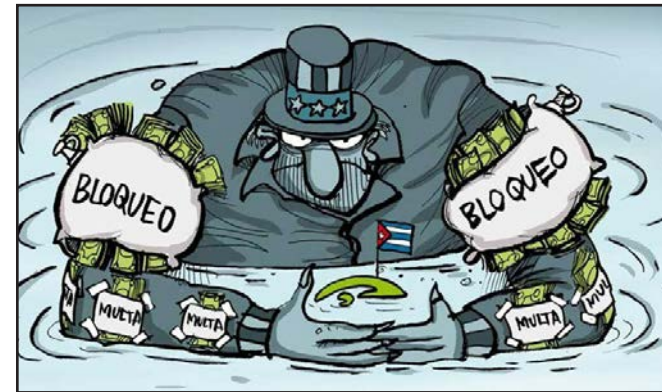
➤ 44 hours are equivalent to the funding needed to guarantee computers in the country's educational centers (US\$25,200,000).

➤ 15 minutes corresponds to the funding needed to cover the demand for hearing aids for children and adolescents with disabilities in special education in the country (US\$144,000).

➤ Three days are synonymous with the cost of annual maintenance of public transportation in the country (US\$40 million).

➤ Nine months is equivalent to the estimated financing needed to cover the country's new housing construction needs (US\$ 3,893 million).

Source: granma.cu



←← **SCAN**

**Read Cuba's 2024  
Report to the United  
Nations General  
Assembly on the impact  
of the U.S. blockade**

# 24-hour Global Online Picket to End the U.S. Blockade on Cuba! + Remove Cuba from the so-called "State Sponsors of Terrorism" list

October 29-30, 2024

#UNVote4Cuba #LetCubaLive #UnblockCuba #OffTheList



**24 HOUR GLOBAL ONLINE PICKET**  
OCTOBER 29-30, 2024

*It's time to end the U.S. blockade on Cuba!*

**24 HOUR GLOBAL ONLINE PICKET:**  
**STARTING OCTOBER 29**  
@ 8:00 pm (ET - Havana time)

#UNVote4Cuba  
#OffTheList

**Wrap-up Event & Special Celebration**  
**STARTING OCTOBER 30**  
@ 7:00 pm (ET - Havana time)

#MejorSinBloqueo  
#PuentesDeAmor  
#LetCubaLive

REGISTER NOW:  
<https://tinyurl.com/24hr4Cuba>

[WWW.US-CUBANORMALIZATION.ORG](http://WWW.US-CUBANORMALIZATION.ORG)

In October 2024 Cuba will bring a resolution to the United Nations to end the cruel U.S. Blockade on Cuba for the 32nd consecutive vote! While the government of the U.S. votes “no” to ending the inhuman and illegal blockade, the people of the United States & the world vote “YES”! International actions will take place around the world marking the annual United Nations General Assembly vote. Join us for the 24-hour global online picket with a program of speakers, documentaries, music, and more as we stand by Cuba and its just demand for an end to this cruel U.S. policy.



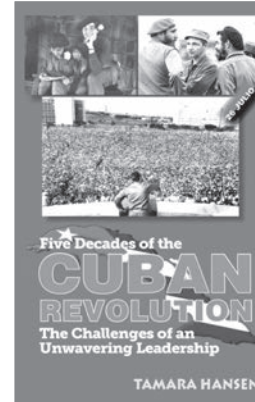
**FRIENDS OF CUBA**  
**AGAINST THE U.S. BLOCKADE**  
**FCAB-VANCOUVER**

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## 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.

April 2010, paperback, \$10.00  
314 pages, illustrated,  
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## Join the Postcard Campaign in Defense of Cuba

Friends of Cuba Against the U.S. Blockade – Vancouver and the NY-NJ Cuba Si Coalition launched a postcard campaign aimed at U.S. President Biden which declares, “Cuba is NOT a ‘sponsor of terrorism’! Remove Cuba from your list!”.

As part of this campaign, people can send postcards as often as they want to the White House. It is a physical reminder to their mail room about this ongoing campaign and this injustice by the U.S. government against Cuba. But also, as folks are mailing their postcard they can take selfies and share them on social media – making this also a public education campaign. Furthermore, these postcards could be used to hand out at events and protests as a way to engage with people and encourage them to take action in support of Cuba!

We hope that you will join us in this exciting new campaign in solidarity with Cuba. If you would like more information or to order postcards please email: [nobloqueoVancouver@gmail.com](mailto:nobloqueoVancouver@gmail.com)

Hey President Biden,  
**CUBA IS NOT A**  
**'SPONSOR OF**  
**TERRORISM'!**  
**REMOVE**  
**CUBA FROM**  
**YOUR LIST!**



# TAKE CUBA OFF THE LIST OF SPONSORS OF TERRORISM!

## Open Letter From Ignacio Ramonet to President Joe Biden

An excerpt

Mr. President Joe Biden,

Your presidential term is coming to an end in a few months. With all due respect, I am writing to you on behalf of a significant number of individuals, social movements, trade unions, humanitarian associations, and non-governmental organizations worldwide who sign this letter with me. We are waiting for a gesture from you to redress a profound injustice committed on January 12, 2021, by your predecessor, Donald Trump, when, a few weeks before leaving the White House, he decided -without any real legal basis- to re-inscribe Cuba on the infamous list of State Sponsors of Terrorism (SSOT list).

Mr. President, as you know, that SSOT list is a foreign policy mechanism conceived by the US Secretary of State (Foreign Ministry) to sanction those countries that "repeatedly support acts of international terrorism".

Mr. President, in an act of justice and political clarity, the administration of President Barack Obama, of which you were a part, removed Cuba from that dishonorable list in 2015. This represented a very positive step towards forging, at last, a more constructive relationship with Havana. During the administration of Barack Obama, when you were Vice President of the United States, it was possible to move towards normalizing diplomatic relations between two neighbors with different political systems willing to understand each other based on mutual respect.

Mr. President, you are not unaware that Cuba has always denounced and fought

terrorism. It has never encouraged or sponsored it. It has never practiced it. For 65 years, despite the tensions that may have existed between the United States and Cuba, not a single case of violent action that has taken place in US territory has been sponsored, directly or indirectly, by Havana. Not a single case!

On the other hand, Cuba has been one of the countries most attacked by terrorist organizations. More than



3,500 Cuban citizens have died in attacks committed by terrorist groups financed, armed, and trained by violent organizations based, for the most part, in the United States. In other words, it is the world upside down. And you know it.

Mr. President, you are also not unaware that by having -unjustly- included Cuba in that SSOT list, numerous and painful unilateral coercive measures are applied to this country and all its innocent population. The most atrocious consequences derive from the risk associated with any humanitarian

aid, business, investment, and trade involving Cuba and, by extension, its citizens. For example, Cubans with foreign citizenship who qualify for an Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA) waiver to travel to the United States have been denied that waiver. Cubans residing in the European Union have had their bank accounts closed because, as their country is on the SSOT list, they automatically become "high-risk customers." Many religious groups have had their funds frozen and humanitarian aid shipments to the island blocked. Individuals attempting to transfer money via PayPal or Wise to family members in Cuba may have their funds frozen and their accounts blocked. Most banks refuse to process Cuban payments and have frozen sums of money for humanitarian activities.

The presence of Cuba on the SSOT list limits, for individuals, the opening of bank accounts abroad, the use of instruments for international collections and payments, access to digital banking, the contracting of servers and online services, and a thousand other impediments.

*Dr. Ignacio Ramonet is a Spanish-French journalist, writer and former director of Le Monde diplomatique.*

Read the full letter and sign it >>>

Lee la carta completa en español y fírmala >>>



# Cuba Stands with Palestine!

Communiqué of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cuba

In line with the firm and sustained commitment to support and contribute as much as possible to legitimate international efforts to end the genocide committed against the Palestinian people, the Government of the Republic of Cuba has decided to intervene in the contentious proceedings initiated by the Republic of South Africa against the State of Israel before the International Court of Justice.

In accordance with the provisions of Article 63 of the Statute of the Court, and in strict observance of its obligations as a State party to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, Cuba will make use of its right to present, as a Third State, its interpretation of the rules of the Convention that Israel has flagrantly violated with its actions in

the illegally occupied Palestinian territory of the Gaza Strip.

The lawsuit filed with the main judicial body of the United Nations is primarily aimed at halting atrocities against the Palestinian people as a result of Israel's disproportionate and indiscriminate use of force.

Israel, with total impunity, protected by the complicity of the United States Government, ignores its obligations as the occupying Power under the Fourth Geneva Convention.

Genocide, Apartheid, forced displacement



Cuban & Palestinian flags at a protest in Cuba on November 24, 2023

and collective punishment cannot be included in today's world, nor can they be tolerated by the international community. Justice and respect for the Charter of the United Nations and international law must prevail.

Source: Cubaminrex

## Join the Monthly Vancouver Cuba Car Caravans!

For over 60 years the US government has imposed a complete economic blockade on the people of Cuba in an effort to destroy Cuba's sovereignty and independence. Cuba has continued to stand up and defend itself despite these huge attempts to sabotage its day to day life.

The Car Caravan idea was initiated in 2020 in Miami, Florida by the group Puentes de Amor (Bridges of Love) and its coordinator Cuban American Carlos Lazo. During the social distancing requirements of Covid-19 traditional forms of protest were difficult, so the idea of the Car Caravan was an excellent action to safely continue to protest the immoral and unjust US blockade on Cuba.

The necessity to end the blockade has become even more important since January 2021 when the US government relisted Cuba as a "State Sponsor of Terrorism." This meant a further restriction on imports to Cuba such as fuel, agricultural products, food, medicine, and much more. The blockade also blocks Cuba from trading in the globally dominant US dollar, forcing it to pay more for items than if it were not on this list of state sponsors of terrorism. These extreme coercive measures of the blockade have continued under current US President Joe Biden.

It has become as important as ever for the international solidarity to continue to defend Cuba and call for an immediate end to the blockade. We hope you can join us Sunday September 29, 2024 where we will be protesting the US blockade through a peaceful Car Caravan for Cuba!

Lift the blockade on Cuba now! Cuba si, bloqueo no!



@NoBloqueoVan

Friends of Cuba Against the US Blockade - Vancouver

www.vancubausblockade.org



Vancouver Monthly Car Caravan

LIFT THE U.S. BLOCKADE ON CUBA!

Sunday September 29 @ 12:30pm  
For Vancouver location Call: 604-780-4029



President Biden Take Cuba Off the "State Sponsors of Terrorism" List!

#OffTheList  
#MejorSinBloqueo  
#UnBlockCuba  
#CubaSiBloqueo  
#PuentesDeAmor  
#BridgesOfLove  
#LetCubaLive

Friends of Cuba Against the US Blockade - Vancouver  
WWW.VANCUBAUSBLOCKADE.ORG|@nobloqueoan



# Families Code: The results of unity between the people & the government of Cuba

By **Natalia Marques**

## An excerpt

Cuba passed one of the world's most progressive codes on families on September 25, 2022. All in one go, the small island nation legalised same-sex marriage, defined and upheld the rights of children, the disabled, caregivers, the elderly, and redefined "family" along ties of affinity rather than blood. This opens the concept of "family" to include non-traditional forms of familial relations, which exist outside the model of the heterosexual nuclear family.

Hailed as revolutionary by many in Cuba, the code will help provide protections to people who would have otherwise faced discrimination in society while ensuring that Cubans in same-sex relationships who wish to marry now have the legal right to do so.

According to young Cubans and social movement leaders, whom I spoke to about the Family Code while attending a conference titled "Building Our Future" in Havana in November, the code is a reflection of a dialogue between the Cuban people and their government.

In the time since the code was passed,

the Cuban government remains in dialogue with the people. The Ministry of Justice is still holding seminars in provinces throughout Cuba for people seeking answers to questions that have come up during the implementation process. The Family Code has been influencing everything from sports to property relations. Notably, in just the first two months of the law being passed, 112 same-sex marriages were registered.

## A revolutionary Code



*Couple Liuba and Lisset are married in October 2022, soon after the passage of the Family Code. photo: Belly of the Beast Cuba*

"It's a revolutionary code that will change the thinking and the vision that Cubans have regarding ... discriminations that can happen in society," said Jose Luiz, a third-year international relations student at the Higher Institute of International Relations Raul Roa García. The Family

Code legalises and broadens the definition of a "family" far beyond the traditional definition. The code "will bring new protections to people who have, in one way or another, been discriminated against," Luiz told me.

## Popular consultation

In order to overcome social conservatism to pass one of the most progressive Family Codes in the world, Cuba underwent a meticulous process of popular consultation, from February 1 to April 30, 2022. The National Assembly of People's Power stressed the importance of Cubans familiarising themselves with the code, in order to prevent feelings of uncertainty. Through this process, the Cuban people made more than 400,000 proposals, many of which were included in the finalised code. Minister of Justice,

Oscar Manuel Silvera Martínez, said that the 25th version of the code, presented to and approved by the National Assembly, "was more solid because it was imbued with the wisdom of the people".

Young people played a central role in the process leading up to the

approval of the Family Code. "Cuban youth ... are involved in all tasks that are deployed by the Cuban revolution," said Luiz. "We also participated in our referendum for our constitution in 2019. We were in popular committees, discussing the constitution and we contributed to that."

In 2019, Cuba held a referendum on a new constitution. The referendum passed with a majority vote of 87%, which is about 73.3% of the total electorate. The referendum was preceded by a popular consultation process, in which a draft constitution was discussed in 133,000 public meetings nationwide, where people submitted 783,000 proposals for changes. Officials stated that almost 60% of the draft constitution was modified based on the proposals submitted by the public during the popular consultation process.

The results of this popular process speak for themselves: With 74% of eligible voters participating, the Family Code passed in a landslide victory with 67% percent of votes in favour.

Gretel Marante Roset, international relations officer for the Federation of Cuban Women, told me that the women played a special role in the process of creating the Family Code. "Our commander in chief [Fidel Castro] said that the Federation of Cuban Women is a revolution within another revolution. Women in Cuba are



beneficiaries and protagonists of our own development." Women hold half of all national parliamentary seats in Cuba.

"The Federation of Cuban Women was part of the commission writing the draft of the Family Code to propose the text and interpretation of gender equality," Marante Roset told me.

"About the Family Code, I think that the document is for the future. It is based on love... recognizing other types of families, joint human rights... I think that this is the future for Cuba," Marante Roset said.

Source: [resumen-english.org](https://resumen-english.org)

For more information about Cuba's challenges and gains related to Queer rights, scan this QR Code to watch the June 29, 2023 webinar: Celebrate Cuba's International Days Against Homophobia & Transphobia

SCAN ME



"For all Families, Love is the Law" organized by the U.S.-Cuba Normalization Conference Coalition

*AZZA ROJBI – North African queer activist and board member of Fierté Canada Pride. Azza is also the Coordinator of Friends of Cuba Against the U.S. Blockade - Vancouver. Azza participated in the Cuban Days against Homophobia and Transphobia in 2016. Azza is a member of the Editorial Board of the Fire This Time Newspaper. She is the author of "U.S. & Saudi War on the People of Yemen" (Battle of Ideas Press).*

*TAMARA HANSEN - Coordinator of Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba (VCSC). She is also a founding organizer with the US-Cuba Normalization Conference Coalition, member of the Editorial Board of the Fire This Time Newspaper, and the author of the book, "5 Decades of the Cuban Revolution the Challenges of an Unwavering leadership" (Battle of Ideas Press).*

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