

Model Motion

Cuba, the release of the Miami Five and the US blockade

[This union/organisation] welcomes the release from US jails of the final three members of the Miami Five, Ramón Labañino, Antonio Guerrero and Gerardo Hernández.

We are proud to have been part of the British and international movement that helped to publicise the case and win widespread support for the campaign for their freedom and justice.

We note that the British Government has to date refused to grant visas for members of the Miami Five to visit our country, this despite the fact that they have been invited by trade unions and Members of Parliament and that they have visited other European countries such as France and Spain already.

[This union/organisation] applauds the historic statements made by President Obama and President Castro on 17 December 2014 announcing the reestablishment of diplomatic relations between Cuba and the USA. However, we note that this does not mean an end to the illegal blockade of Cuba which has cost the country more than 116 billion US Dollars since 1962, and was condemned for the 23rd consecutive year by a United Nations General Assembly vote of 188-2 in October 2014.

There are still many within the USA opposed to normalising relations and ending the blockade. Some politicians are threatening to block the appointment of a US Ambassador to Cuba. The Office for Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) is still empowered to fine third country companies that trade with Cuba. And the pillars of the blockade – the Helms-Burton Law and the Torricelli Act can only be repealed by Congress, where Obama has no majority.

[This union/organisation] expresses its concern that while President Obama's statement acknowledges US policy has "has failed to advance our interests", the US government remains committed to pursuing their objectives of regime change and interference in Cuba's right to chose it's own economic, social and political path, as evidenced by the 11 million US dollars it made available on 24 December 2014 for organisations both inside and outside Cuba working to advance US political interests on the island.

[This union/organisation] acknowledges the work of the Cuba Solidarity Campaign in the fight to free the Miami Five, and to end the blockade of Cuba. We express support for the right of Cuba to choose their own economic, social and political path and oppose the USA's illegal economic blockade and policies to isolate and interfere in the internal affairs of island. We recognise that the next 2 years are a crucial time in campaigning for an end to the US blockade.

We therefore commit to redouble our efforts to:

1. Call on the US government to completely end the blockade of Cuba and cease its occupation of Guantánamo Bay.
2. Demand that the UK government rescinds its refusal to grant a visa to one of the Five, Rene Gonzalez, and now allows them all, and their families to visit the UK
3. Call on the UK Government to move forward to develop strong diplomatic, trade, scientific and cultural relations between our two countries based on mutual respect and understanding and oppose all US extraterritorial threats against UK-based companies
4. Urge branches and individuals who are not already affiliates/members, to join the Cuba Solidarity Campaign to help bring an end to the blockade once and for all