

NLG Resolution Calling for a Reinvigorated Solidarity Campaign with the Cuban People
Submitted by the Cuba Subcommittee
International Committee, National Lawyers Guild

WHEREAS, since its triumph on January 1, 1959, the Cuban revolution has been a beacon of anti-imperialism and international solidarity, and the NLG has stood with it to defend the rights of both U.S. people to visit and stand with Cuba, and for representatives of the Cuban revolution to come and speak in the United States.

WHEREAS, despite some changes in intensity and tactical approaches, the US government and reactionary forces have sought to undermine and overthrow the Cuban revolution ever since, including the long-secret but officially adopted April 1960 policy recommendation to “bring about hunger, desperation and overthrow of government” in Cuba.

WHEREAS, this accurately describes US policy today, which reflects the extreme escalation of sanctions under the Trump administration, reversing the more realistic and positive direction under President Obama. These extreme policies have almost entirely been continued by the Biden administration, contrary to Biden's pre-election promises. Biden has added sanctions, called Cuba a “failed state,” and even continued in place the last-minute and unfounded naming of Cuba as a state supporter of terrorism by Trump's last Secretary of State, Michael Pompeo, who was also quoted as saying “our goal is to starve the island.” This, and the unprecedented action of activating Title III of the Helms-Burton act to allow lawsuits in US courts against any companies utilizing properties in Cuba that were nationalized as far back as 1959, have severely deterred international commerce and investment in Cuba.

WHEREAS, the effects on the Cuban people are severe, including power outages, and shortages of food and medicine.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the NLG calls for a renewed and re-invigorated campaign of solidarity with the Cuban people, including a demand for the immediate removal of Cuba from the list of so-called state supporters of terrorism, the suspension of all provisions of the Helms-Burton Act until it is repealed, and the removal of all sanctions against Cuba, including under the Trading with the Enemy Act. We also call for the full restoration of our right to travel to Cuba including the immediate restoration of full people-to-people educational travel.

We urge members, chapters, and committees of the NLG at all levels to travel to Cuba, to support humanitarian campaigns, to educate themselves regarding this situation, and to support solidarity initiatives on the local and national levels, as part of the rebuilding of a multinational, multiracial, gender-equal and multi-generational solidarity movement in support of the Cuban people and Cuba's sovereignty.

Implementation Clause:

Implementation by the NLG Cuba Subcommittee, c/o of co-chairs Art Heitzer and Vladimir Martinez. Emails: artheitzer@gmail.com; vladimir.martinez@live.law.cuny.edu

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