



General Assembly

Distr.: General
3 October 2013
English
Original: Spanish

Human Rights Council

Twenty-fourth session

Agenda item 6

Universal periodic review

Letter dated 27 September 2013 addressed to the secretariat of the Human Rights Council from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cuba to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva

I am writing to you in regard to the statement made by the non-governmental organization United Nations Watch during the adoption of the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review relating to Cuba, on Friday, 20 September 2013.

In this connection, I request that the comments of Cuba, contained in the annex to this letter, be published as an official document of the twenty-fourth session of the Human Rights Council, under agenda item 6 and in all the official languages of the United Nations.

(Signed) Anayansi **Rodríguez Camejo**
Ambassador, Permanent Representative

Annex

Comments of Cuba regarding the statement made by the non-governmental organization United Nations Watch during the adoption of the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review relating to Cuba, on 20 September 2013

It is unacceptable that the universal periodic review mechanism should be used in an effort to spread unfounded accusations that seek solely to distort the reality and the achievements of Cuba in the promotion and protection of human rights for all.

The allegations that acts of violence were committed against Cuban citizen Yris Tamara Pérez Aguilera are false and malicious.

Ms. Pérez Aguilera is not a human rights defender. She hides behind that label to carry out activities directed against the constitutional order of Cuba, in order to further the interests of the Government of the United States of America against the people and Government of Cuba.

Her tactic is to orchestrate provocations in order to generate a media campaign against Cuba, seeking thereby, without any evidence or specific supporting data, to convey the totally false image of a country marked by violence and the increased repression of its population. Her public acts are aimed at fomenting social unrest and internal destabilization, in violation of national laws.

To promote those acts, she and her husband receive material and financial support from abroad.

At no time has the physical integrity of Ms. Pérez Aguilera been placed at risk. Her human rights have not been violated, and her life is not in any danger in Cuba.

The issue of human rights has historically been wielded as an instrument of support and attempted justification of the United States' hostile policy towards Cuba, which includes the economic blockade and the use of terrorism and political subversion, with the aim of destroying the economic, political and social system freely chosen by the Cuban people in the exercise of their right to self-determination.

Cuba has used solid arguments to demonstrate irrefutably the falseness of these allegations on numerous occasions. It has also exposed the true nature of the activities of those who, as hirelings serving the anti-Cuba policy of the United States Government, call themselves "human rights defenders". By their actions they abet a foreign power's policy of aggression against Cuba, contribute to the flagrant violation of the human rights of the Cuban people, interfere with the enjoyment of their rights to development, peace and self-determination and contravene key principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

The activities of the aforementioned persons cannot be classified as those of human rights defenders as established in the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 9 December 1998. Through their actions they seek to undermine and destroy the internal legal order of Cuba, its domestic law, which is the juridical framework within which all activities should be conducted, as stipulated in article 3 of the Declaration.