Strengthening Solidarity with Cuba

People’s Liberation Front (JVP) - Sri Lanka
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Why are we so concerned of Cuba, the Caribbean Island with 11 million citizens which is 1000s miles away from our region?

Cuba has become a role model for us and to the whole world, as a country and in many political, social and economic contexts. Cuba has shown to the world that socialist revolution is achievable and sustainable by standing firm on socialist principles for over five decades by now.

Cuba exemplified to the less powerful countries how to withstand imperialist pressure and maintain sovereignty of the nation. Economic embargo of American imperialism was ideologically defeated by gathering hundreds of countries incrementally yearly by extending solidarity. Cuban citizens together with international friends could get five Cubans released from the USA’s captivity.

When so called powerful countries send military missions to help disasters of other countries, Cuba send medical missions. When super powers invent, make and spread weapons including weapons of mass destruction, Cuba invent, make and spread life saving technologies and spread the art of keeping health of people even at remote locations of world’s poorest countries.

In addition to decades long official diplomatic relationship between Sri Lanka and Cuba, progressive political parties and civil society organizations in Sri Lanka are strengthening solidarity with Cuba. Trading, tourism and educational relationships too are widening between two nations. Here, we highlight few of them.
Commemoration of Che

Under the patronage of Socialist Youth Union (SYU) of Sri Lanka which is the youth wing of Peoples’ Liberation Front (JVP) Comrade Che Guevara is commemorated yearly on 8th of October. Activities ranging from speeches, musical shows, banner signing, motor cycle parades, dramas are being organized with the participation of thousands of youth, progressive political leaders and diplomats. In each of the commemorations since 2008, resolutions were passed by 1000s of participants insisting the release of five Cuban heroes and lifting embargo imposed by the USA.
Comrade Bimal Rathnayake, National Organizer of Socialist Youth Union.

Cuban Ambassadress, Mrs. Nirsia Castro Guevara, addressing the gathering.
Che Day 2009

Endorsing Cuba Solidarity Resolution
Che Day 2011
“Che Riders” at their 1100 km 5 days journey around Sri Lanka.
The event was held at the “Che Garden” where Comrade Che planted the Mahogani tree in his visit to Sri Lanka in 1959.

Cuban Ambassador to Sri Lanka Mrs Indira Lopez with General Secretary of People’s Liberation Front Com. Tilvin Silva.
Petition
A petition was signed by more than 60 members of the Parliament of Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka insisting the USA to release five Cuban heroes held in captivity unethically and illegally. MPs of Peoples’ Liberation Front (JVP) pioneered the signing of petition. It was handed over to the leadership of ICAP at the Parliament of Sri Lanka in 2008.

Translation of “History will Absolve me” in to Tamil language
Historical speech of Comrade Fidel Castro in October 1953 in the trial against him, famously known with his concluding remarks “History will absolve me” was translated in to Tamil language in June 2015. Tamil readers, especially the youth, will benefit immensely.

The translator, Mrs. Gayathri Gananathapillai, with Cuban Ambassador to Sri Lanka at the book launch.

Joining the fight against the USA embargo and the release of five Cuban Heroes
Translation of Com. Fidel’s biography
Ignacio Ramonet’s “My Life”, the biography of Comrade Fidel Castro was translated to Sinhala language by prominent writer Mr. Abaya Hewavasam.

Erecting a statue of Jose Marti
Sri Lanka-Cuba Friendship Society will soon be erecting a bust of Cuban national hero Jose Marti in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Two conferences on international solidarity with Cuba
Fourth Asia Pacific Regional Conference for Solidarity with Cuba was held in June 2008 in Colombo and Sixth Asia Pacific Regional Conference for Solidarity with Cuba was held in October 2012 in Colombo. Hosting two international solidarity conferences within four years was a great achievement in respect of Sri Lanka's commitment to the solidarity with Cuba.

Trading partnerships
A cancer vaccine and an injectable medicine developed at the Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology of Cuba was introduced to Sri Lanka recently.

Long live socialist revolution in Cuba..!
Long live international solidarity to Cuba..!

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