

Appeal of the ICDC to the Organization of American States (OAS)

The Prague Memorandum, a document approved by the International Committee for Democracy in Cuba (ICDC) during its first meeting, states: “Our goal is to help create the conditions so that the Cuban people can bring about democracy (...) as well as strengthen the civil society and civic movement that are bringing about that democracy”.

With regard to this statement and considering the fact that between the 5th and 7th of June the XXXV session of the OAS General Assembly will take place, we feel the necessity to denounce that the Cuban regime not only impedes the change to democracy but also violates systematically the human rights of its citizens. In order to achieve this objective, we appeal to this institution to demand the real respect of all the human rights in Cuba.

Many times the human rights violations in Cuba have been denounced by such institutions as the Inter-American Commission for Human Rights, connected to the OAS. Nevertheless, the Cuban dictatorship ignores all the international agreements and conventions regarding human rights and democracy.

The Cuban regime, not recognized by the Organization of American States, should not continue to be the totalitarian exception in the West, especially considering the fact that fifteen years ago the Cold War ended. The San Jose Memorandum, approved during the second meeting of the ICDC in Costa Rica, says very clearly: “Inside and outside of the island the opposition democrats are willing to look for flexible formulas that would prompt a peaceful change towards democracy and freedom, without vengeance or repression”. However, in order to achieve this objective, it is fundamental that the international community, especially the community of American States – to which Cuba belongs – “stands decidedly at the side of the victims and facing the murderer”. We, the democrats have this obligation.

Signed by:

Kim Campbell, Canada, former Prime Minister
Philip Dimitrov, Bulgaria, former Prime Minister
Andre Glucksmann, France, Philosopher
Vaclav Havel, Czech Republic, former president
Enrique Krauze, Mexico, writer
Mart Laar, Estonia, former president
Luis Alberto Lacalle, Uruguay, former president
Cecilia Malmstrom, Sweden, Member of the European Parliament
Edward McMillan-Scott, United Kingdom, Member of the European Parliament
Luis Alberto Monge Alvarez, Costa Rica, former president
Karel Schwarzenberg, Czech Republic, Member of Senate
Arnold Vaatz, Germany, Member of German Parliament
Matti Wuori, Finland, former Member of the European Parliament