

Declaration of ICDC Members and Political Leaders from Latin America

As members of the International Committee for Democracy in Cuba (ICDC) and political leaders from Latin America, we actively support the declaration made by Vaclav Havel, ex-president of the Czech Republic (and founder of the ICDC) on 1 August 2006 in Prague.

Together we call for the maintenance of political pressure on the island during the temporary cessation of power by the Cuban leader, Fidel Castro. This is particularly important as this handover of power does not represent a significant transformation of the totalitarian regime.

This is an appeal to democratic societies, the Organization of American States (OAS), the European Union (EU) and the United Nations (UN) to maintain pressure on the island's authorities in order to ensure democratic transition takes place.

The experience of transformation from totalitarian states to democracies, especially in Eastern Europe, has demonstrated that if a country is content with only cosmetic changes, they risk violence, social ills and the maintenance of a regime that systematically denies human rights.

We call on the international community to maintain a special vigilance for the lives of the dissidents and political prisoners of Cuba.

Signed,

Luis Alberto Monge Alvarez (former president, Costa Rica)

Armando Calderón Sol (former president, El Salvador)

Violeta Barrios de Chamorro (former president, Nicaragua)

Luis Alberto Lacalle Herrera (former president, Uruguay)

Lourdes Flores Nano (former presidential candidate, Perú)

Otto Guevara Guth (former presidential candidate, Costa Rica)

Ricardo Toledo Carranza (former presidential candidate, Costa Rica)

José Manuel Echandi Meza former presidential candidate, Costa Rica and Defender of the Citizens of Costa Rica)