

## The Socialist Party Demands:

- 1) The immediate unilateral termination of the US blockade of Cuba, including all laws and policies pertaining thereto; but especially,
  - i) termination of National Emergency Authority under Proclamation 6867.
  - ii) repeal of the Helms-Burton (LIBERTAD), Torricelli (CDA) Acts. As well as repeal of the relevant sections of Foreign Assistance Act of 1961
  - iii) termination or deliberate lapse of statutory authority for Cuban Asset Control Regulations under the Trading with the Enemy Act
- 2) Removal of Cuba from the US State Sponsors of Terror List.
- 3) The complete lifting of any and all restrictions on US citizens travel to and in Cuba.
- 4) An end to all asymmetric warfare and propaganda against the Cuban government and people.
- 5) An end to all extraterritorial economic or political interference with bilateral dealings between Cuba and other members of the global community.
- 6) Immediate return of Guantanamo Bay to Cuba.

## Becoming a Member of the Socialist Party

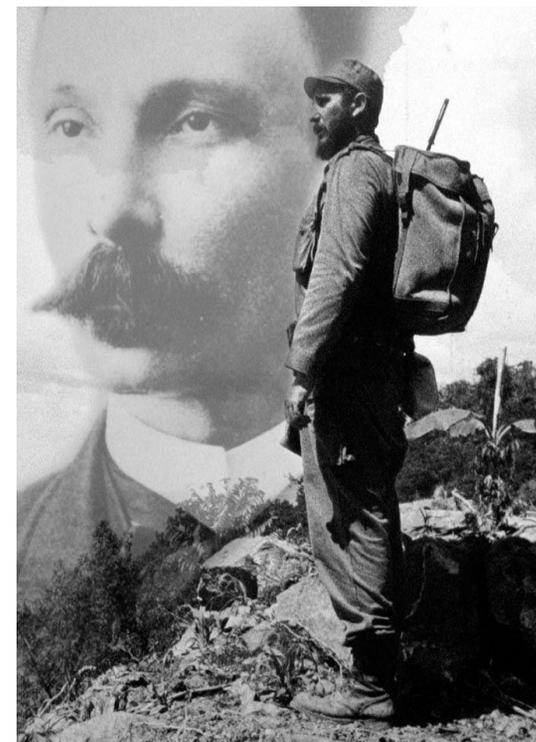
To join the Socialist Party USA, go to [www.socialistpartyusa.net/join-the-party](http://www.socialistpartyusa.net/join-the-party).

There you can review the Party's Principles and complete the online registration form. Dues rates are listed on the application. If there is a local in your area you will be contacted by them. If not, the National Office will get in touch.

Members are strongly encouraged to help build their local, and or state organizations. Or, to start these if none exists in your area. The SP-USA National Office can provide materials for this purpose. Membership in the Socialist Party means learning as well as doing. The Party encourages members to educate themselves about the theory and history of the socialist movement, as well as other contemporary and historical social movements. The Party can provide bibliographies and other resources towards this purpose.

When someone joins the Socialist Party, they're also joining to reinforce their commitment to other movements for social, political, and economic, justice. Socialists don't sequester themselves in their own party. On the contrary, most socialists are in other movements. It is from these other movements that new socialists are often recruited.

Members come to the socialist movement from many different backgrounds. Some become socialist based on their study of works of theory on economics or politics. Other come as a by-product of their religious commitments. Yet others become socialists because their work in the labor or women's movements has convinced them that such problems as chronic unemployment and sexual inequality cannot be resolved within the framework of a capitalist economy and society. Many others come to the socialist movement because their everyday lives have convinced them that there has to be a better, more dignified of living and a more just way or organizing society.



# M-26-7

**End the Blockade! / Terminar el Bloqueo!**

**Socialist Internationalism  
& The Cuban Revolution**

**Socialist Party USA**  
[www.SocialistParty-USA.org](http://www.SocialistParty-USA.org)

## **Socialist Internationalism**

The Socialist Party stands in unequivocal solidarity with the Cuban Revolution, and the Cuban people, and against the imperialist blockade and all attempts at regime change. Socialist internationalism means standing with all nations victimized by imperialist domination and exploitation, but especially those nations in which the working classes have built their own states. Socialists living in the US have a duty to do what they can to oppose and undermine imperialist aggressions and interventions. Aiding comrades, especially those who have made successful revolutions must be a priority for socialists around the globe.

For more than 60 years the Cuban people have suffered because of the illegal blockade of Cuba by the US. The blockade has cost the Cuban economy over \$100 billion over its more than six decade existence. This blockade policy constitutes a war crime under the Geneva Convention, to which the US is a signatory. It has also been condemned annually for nearly a quarter century by an overwhelmingly lopsided vote in the UN General Assembly. This illegal, inhumane, and completely failed policy must end.

Beyond the moral imperative to end the blockade, there is a political imperative. The ending of the US blockade would permit the full flowering of the Cuban revolution. Unimpeded by artificial barriers to commerce with the rest of the world, the Cuban people would be able to raise their standard of living immensely. Many of the inconveniences of everyday life the Cuban people currently bear would disappear in short order following the elimination of the blockade. A flourishing Cuba would provide the world socialist movement an impeccable example of the kind of society socialists seek to build in every nation around the globe.

Socialists are internationalists. We see the working class as existing across national borders. We work in solidarity with socialist parties and social movements around the world to help them resist capitalist imperialism. While we aid comrades in their struggles in their home countries, we know the best help we can give is to make revolutions in our home countries.

## **The Cuban Revolution**

On New Year's Eve 1959 US-backed Cuban dictator Fulgencio Batista fled the country with a small retinue of family and close supporters; as well as millions of dollars stolen from the Cuban people. Soon thereafter rebel forces, led by Fidel Castro's July 26<sup>th</sup> Movement, entered Havana and established a revolutionary government. Since coming to power in Cuba the revolutionary government has overseen the transformation not only of the island, but of its people.

Within a decade the revolution had eliminated illiteracy. In its more than 60 years of existence, in defiance of US imperialist machinations, the Cuban revolution has built healthcare and education systems, that rival first-world nations' results at a fraction of the cost. It has guaranteed basic civil rights to all citizens, and created one of the most participatory democracies on the planet. The process leading up to and including the passage of the new Cuban constitution is a model of bottom-up participatory democracy.

In addition to looking after the welfare of the Cuban people, the Cuban revolution has also staunchly upheld its internationalist duty; sending medical brigades to the poorest regions of the planet, sending military aid to Angola and other revolutionary movements. While the US's School of the Americas produces torturers, the Cuban School of the Americas produces doctors. Cuba's socialist internationalism contributes to liberation and development. The US's capitalist internationalism enables repression and exploitation.

Cuba's commitment to socialist internationalism continues to this day. From its beginning, Cuba was on the frontlines of the global fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. They not only sent medical missions to help some of the world's poorest countries try to contain their outbreaks, but also used their well-developed bio-medical industry to develop treatments as well as several vaccine candidates independently of capitalist pharmaceutical industry; vaccines it has committed to share with the world's least developed nations.

## **Ending the Blockade**

How do we bring and end to the blockade? This question has perplexed activists and policy makers for years. The conventional understanding supposes that the blockade can only be ended legislatively by the Congress. This is due to the mainstream interpretation of the legal implications of the 1996 Helms-Burton (LIBERTAD) Act. This view makes the ending of the blockade seem a near impossibility given the fractured and dysfunctional state of US politics and both houses of Congress.

This understanding is misguided. The President retains the constitutional authority to unilaterally terminate the blockade by the stroke of a pen. Moreover, the President has the ability to end the blockade by doing nothing. That is, the President may allow the statutory authority underpinning the set of policies that compose the blockade to lapse by not renewing them. These renewals must be made annually, and simply allowing them to expire would in effect end the blockade.

Any legal challenge members of Congress might make will be a dead letter as they would find it impossible to establish the legal standing required for a lawsuit. Since they could not demonstrate and personal harm resulting from the end of the blockade, they would not have the legal standing to go forward with a lawsuit.

Moreover, even assuming that such a legal challenge could go forward, the constitutions' clear establishment of the President's supremacy in conducting the nation's foreign affairs means the Supreme Court would have to reject the Congress's attempt to usurp that power via a legal challenge. There also the "political question" doctrine by which the Supreme Court avoids wading into policy questions which are properly left to the elected branches of government.

What this means is that the only thing standing between any US President and ending the blockade immediately is the political will to do so. This lack of will is explained by the bi-partisan capitalist consensus that the Cuban revolution must be strangled before its example infects other countries, including the US.