



To: Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples (ICAP)

Message of Condolence

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the *U.S. Solidarity Delegation to ICAP's 65th Anniversary*, we wish to extend our deepest condolences to the people of Cuba and to the families of the thirty-two heroic Cuban combatants who lost their loved ones on January 3, 2026. These brave individuals were tragically murdered by the invading military forces of the United States of America.

We are profoundly horrified and condemn these acts of aggression carried out by the U.S. government, which resulted in the brazen kidnapping and physical mistreatment of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro and his wife, Cilia Flores. These illegal attacks by the U.S. government against the Bolivarian Revolution and the people of Venezuela are in clear violation of fundamental principles of international law. Such acts of U.S. imperialism represent a direct threat to other countries in the region that are not aligned with U.S. foreign policy.

We join the nation of Cuba in mourning, honoring each of the thirty-two combatants who gave their lives in the spirit of international solidarity alongside their Venezuelan comrades. Together they defended the country's sovereignty against U.S. imperialism, whose plan is to violently seize the natural resources of Venezuela.

As we commemorate the centennial of Commander Fidel Castro's birth, we reflect upon his legacy of international solidarity. Thirty-seven years ago, the remains of 2,289 Cuban combatants returned home after giving their lives on internationalist missions in Africa. Honored for their sacrifice, those men and women were key participants in the liberation of southern Africa from European-dominated, racist regimes. Today, we also honor the sacrifice of the thirty-two Cuban combatants in Venezuela, who stood in opposition to the ongoing efforts of the United States of America to recolonize the region and undermine Venezuelan sovereignty. Now, as their remains return home, they too will receive honorable burials. In Venezuela, they defended the nation's independence, the right to self-determination, and the freedom of all peoples to control their own development.

As Cuba endures this difficult chapter in its history, please know that we share in your collective grief and will always stand in solidarity with your nation, fighting from within "the belly of the beast."

In Solidarity.
Dr. Rosemari Mealy
Delegation Leader
January 12, 2026
USA