

# Close to 100,000 Cuban exiles made their rejection of Castro clear

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Responding to a call by the principal militant anti-Castro organizations, almost 100,000 people (according to calculations of EFE international Spanish news agency) took part in the March of the Patriotic Intransigence on Saturday, to make clear on Saturday their repudiation of the tyranny of Fidel Castro, and their firm stance of "no agreement of any kind" with it.

Shortly after noon on Saturday, individuals and organizations began to gather from 8<sup>th</sup> Street to 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue towards the east, and one could start to see the Cuban flags and placards with slogans related to the act and others like those of the Junta Patriótica Cubana, "Tony Varona, Alma Mater del Exilio," "We want the 1940 Constitution," "Más Canosa Lives," "Forward, Forward, Forward," and "Freedom for Eduardo Arocena" and others imprisoned in the United States for fighting against communism, and hundreds more.

Early on, together with the people were the mayors of Dade County, Alex Penelas and of Miami, Joe Carollo. Penelas declared to the press that the exile community is not inactive, as some assume. Carollo told DIARIO LAS AMERICAS: "The exile community is showing the true feelings of the intransigency, to not make deals with crime, nor injustice, and that the evil ones like the Castro tyranny have to be rooted out."

One could see among others, the state representative Carlos Valdés, the city commissioner Tomás Regalado, School Board member Demetrio Pérez, and Joe Bush, gubernatorial candidate of Florida. "I am here with the exile friends who want freedom and justice for Cuba," he said.

The presence of journalist and diplomat Rafael Bonilla Aybar was one of the highlights of the March, for his connection to the cause of the exiles and for the fact that he had been physically assaulted by Castroite elements in his own Dominican homeland. He received countless well wishes and solidarity of his friends and exiled admirers.

A large Cuban flag several meters wide and long — which has accompanied the last patriotic demonstration of exiles — was displayed in all its symbolism, and was carried aloft principally by the ex-political prisoners of the tyranny. In the same way, a replica of the image of Our Lady of Fatima — carried on the shoulders of members of the TFP, with a group of 25 youths who came directly from Pennsylvania, who sang the Cuban National Anthem to close the event — was another emotional note in the parade.

The March, called by the Coordination of the 9, and backed by an infinite number of organizations, extended from 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue to 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue, the intersection of the Monument to the Martyrs of Girón [*Note: Bay of Pigs*], where the organizers and personalities gathered. At almost 2:30, the parade began, going down 8<sup>th</sup> Street towards the east until 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, to the platform where the speakers spoke.

The speeches were brief and gave the justified and doctrinal content of the March, based on the points of the document, "Cuba at the Crossroads," to which tens of thousands of persons have subscribed.

One of the points is the rejection of international elements that promote a negotiated formula which would perpetrate the regime or continue it by means of a variant.

"We are here because our nation is going through the most critical moment of its history," said Armando Pérez Roura, at which point a provocateur took out a placard that said, "Peace, not war." He was removed immediately by the March security and police. "These are the Castro infiltrators who are exposed here. These are the Cubans who have sold themselves to the tyranny for a few coins. These are the Judases who betray the sacrificed homeland...", said Pérez Roura, who then referred to "a series of international elements that move like scabby aura over carrion, to impose on our beloved Cuba a negotiated formula that is totally alien to the interests of our suffering people."

"We are alone and abandoned, but this march demonstrates that we are firm and with honor ... We do not accept any type of mediated intervention by international elements, be they governments or super-national organizations in a process that leads to a solution of the Cuban crisis," said Dr. Enrique Huertas, president of the Free Cuba Medical College, who made an eloquent recognition from the podium, of the presence at the event of Dr. Horacio Aguirre, director of DIARIO LAS AMERICAS, and of the journalist Rafael Bonilla Aybar, who was also mentioned by doctors Antonio Jorge, de la Concertación Cívica Cubana y Luis Gómez Domínguez, of the World Federation of Cuban Ex-Political Prisoners.

Gómez Domínguez warned in his speech against those who also want a solution for Cuba a la Nicaragua.

Another warning was made to the foreign investors in Cuba, of the responsibility they incur in their complicity with the tyranny "with all the consequences which that dirty credential can bring them," asserted Huber Matos, of CID.

An essential point of the document "Cuba at the Crossroads," referred to by the speakers, was the recognition of the right of the Cuban people to struggle for their struggle by all means within their reach. "We cannot accept nor will we accept that anyone tell us Cubans who struggle for the freedom of our homeland, how we should carry out this struggle, and whether or not we can make this struggle. It is a right which we will never renounce and we will repeat this a thousand and one times," affirmed Juan Pérez Franco, president of Brigade 2506.

"In the struggle for freedom, when one tries to give up honor for peace, one only harvests dishonor and never peace," said Dr. Orlando Bosch, president of the People's Protagonist Party.

"We are intransigent, because we feel very deeply the pain of our brothers who bear the calvary of 40 years. How can we not be intransigent when our suffering is not heard by the governments of the continent and of Europe, who see our people in chains and when they only show indifference, if not complicity? expressed Dr. Alberto Hernández, president of the Cuban American National Foundation, who summed up the event. "We are intransigent and we demand of the Department of Justice, the one they must put in the docket of the accused is Fidel Castro and his regime," he added, to warn the whole world that, "when it comes to negotiating 'our future, when it comes to marginalizing us, when it has to do with our people or homeland, we are intransigent."

The future of a Cuba without Castro is part of the document "Cuba at the Crossroads," and it was addressed as well. Miguel Salas, president of the Cuban Municipalities in Exile, highlighted the critical role of the Municipalities in the reconstruction of the homeland, while

Dr. Antonio Jorge asserted that “we reject any type of solution that does not explicitly include the establishment of the rule of law, and consequently, all those appropriate and institutions that are necessary for the creation of a representative, multi-party democracy, as well as a market economy.”

Photo captions:

- *Leaders of the Cuban Municipalities in Exile (GORT photo).*
- *Andrés Nazario Sargén with members of Alpha 66. (GORT photo).*
- *The Orthodox members said, "Present! With Luis Conte Agüero leading. (GORT photo).*
- *Ex-political prisoners with a large placard. (GORT photo).*
- *The Association of Cuban American Veterans (left) and the Association of Cuban Accountants in Exile, among the many organizations that were in the March of 8<sup>th</sup> Street. (GORT photo).*