

# Cuba in top position at the UN

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Two years after receiving a condemnation from the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) for the shoot-down of two small civil aircraft in international waters, the government of Cuba was elected Thursday as a full member of the Directorate of that organization of the United Nations.

"This is a lack of respect to the moral and ethical sense of humanity, and of this same organization, that condemned that same terrorist and dictatorial government which it today awards with a directorship position within it," affirmed Jose Basulto, president of Brothers to the Rescue.

In 1996, a special commission of the ICAO put out an extensive report recognizing that Cuban MIG military aircraft shot down on February 24th of that year, in international waters in the Strait of Florida, two small aircraft of Brothers to the Rescue, causing the death of their four occupants.

"There is a species of international cynicism around the situation of Cuba, in favor of the dictatorship and consequently against the Cuban people who endure it," stressed Basulto.

The nomination of Cuba received the support of 127 countries, during the 32nd session of the general assembly of the ICAI, which just took place in Montreal, Canada, the second majority vote among the 14 contenders to occupy one of the 12 available positions.

At the same time, the Cuban Institute for Civil Aviation asked the president and secretary general to carry out diplomatic activities to obtain "the end of the restrictive measures of the United States against Cuban civil aviation."

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