ORAL STATEMENT

63rd session of the UN Human Rights Council

ITEM 3: Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the adverse effects of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights, Ms Alena Douhan

Report on the visit to Cuba (A/HRC/63/29/Add.1, 9 July 2026)

Joint oral statement by TNI/CETIM

We are deeply concerned about the unilateral, illegal and illegitimate embargo imposed by the United States of America on Cuba for the past 64 years, which is causing numerous human rights violations against the Cuban people.

The unilateral, illegal and illegitimate embargo imposed and implement by the United States of America on Cuba over the past 64 years, has resulted in subjecting the Cuban people to sustained major human rights violations.

Last January, this embargo was transformed into a total blockade by the current Trump administration, which prevents Cuba from importing any oil. This blockade is enforced through the deployment of US armed forces and economic sanctions against any country or entity that trades with Cuba.

This total blockage of fuel is negating the Cuban government's capacity to supply electricity, causing frequent and prolonged power cuts, and even nationwide blackouts. Only one oil tanker docked in Cuba so far in 2026. It is estimated that eight are needed per month to meet the country's need. Consequently, the distribution of water, food, medicines and equipment to hospitals, supplies to schools, and other raw materials and intermediate goods to production units is being severely disrupted. All economic sectors are affected: agriculture, industry, banking, transport, tourism as well as the daily living and working conditions of the Cuban people.

Through this blockade, the United States aims to inflict maximum suffering on the Cuban people in order to turn them against their government and bring it down. This is, of course, a sustained high intensity criminal action and violates current international law, since this blockade targets an entire people and hits the most vulnerable first and foremost: children, the elderly, the sick, people with disabilities and pregnant women. This blockade is thereby a gross violation, in particular, of the Cubans' right to life and the sovereignty of that country. From a regional perspective, these intensified attacks on Cuba's sovereignty are at the core of a broader U.S. strategy to expand its economic and political control over Latin American states.

The Human Rights Council must implement the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur on the negative effects of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights in relation to Cuba and take all measures within the scope of its mandate to bring about the lifting of the US blockade against Cuba.

Despite its limited resources, Cuba has been strongly committed for several decades to promoting and delivering international solidarity to people in need across all continents. We therefore strongly urge UN Member States to act in the framework of the UN principles and in accordance with their capacity and resources, to demonstrate concrete solidarity with Cuba.

Thank you.