



March and Rally **Saturday, Sept. 19, 2015** **1:00 p.m.**

Assemble at Yonge-Dundas Square, Toronto
southeast corner, Dundas & Yonge

March to the U.S. Consulate

rally across from 360 University, north of Queen

End the U.S. blockade of Cuba now! **55 years of continuing blockade: Too long, too wrong!**

The hostile U.S. blockade of Cuba — a noose around Cuba's economy and an affront to Cuba's right to freely determine its own future as a sovereign country — has existed since 1960. While the United States has been obliged to reopen diplomatic relations with Cuba, the blockade is very far from over and U.S. regime-change objectives have been reaffirmed.

The blockade on trade with Cuba was the U.S. response to the Cuban people's 1959 overthrow of the Fulgencio Batista dictatorship that had ruled for years in favour of U.S. interests, imposing servitude and misery on the population. Its goal was spelled out in a 1960 memo by a senior U.S. State Department official: to make "the greatest inroads in denying money and supplies to Cuba, to decrease monetary and real wages, to bring about hunger, desperation and the overthrow of the [Cuban] government."

The U.S. blockade has been accompanied by ceaseless anti-Cuba propaganda, U.S. threats of military invasion, sabotage and repeated terrorist attacks on Cuba and its people, and other hostile actions, all aimed at bringing the Cuban people to their knees in surrender to U.S. interests and domination.

Since 1960, U.S. administrations have greatly expanded the far-reaching U.S. laws that harshly restrict Cuba's economy and its ability to freely trade and financially transact with the United States and other countries.

The blockade places crushing obstacles in the independent path of the Cuban people to build a society that meets their own needs. The financial cost to Cuba is estimated at over a trillion dollars. But the cost to the lives of the Cuban people is incalculable, as despite their enormous and admirable efforts, the blockade has perpetuated shortages that harm their health care, education, livelihood, and culture.

This cruel U.S. blockade, unparalleled in history and opposed overwhelmingly in 23 United Nations General Assembly votes, must be ended now. Cuba's independence and sovereignty must be respected. There can be no "normalization" of the U.S.-Cuba relationship while the blockade is in place.

Organized by ***Friends of Cuba against the U.S. Blockade*** and ***Canadian-Cuban Friendship Association Toronto***
and supported by ***Latin America and Caribbean Solidarity Network*** and ***Toronto Forum on Cuba***

For information: 416-769-2764