



EMBAJADA DE LA REPÚBLICA DE CUBA
EN ARGELIA

SPEECH BY H.E. MR. Armando Vergara Bueno, Ambassador of the Republic of Cuba in Algeria and in the SADR, on the occasion of the reception for the 65th anniversary of the triumph of the Cuban revolution. HOTEL EL DJAZAÏR. 28/01/2024

H.E. Mrs. Kaouter KRIKOU, minister of National Solidarity, Family and the Status of Women

H.E. Mr. Abdelhak SAIHI, minister of Health and president of the Algeria-Cuba Intergovernmental Commission.

H.E. Ambassadors and heads of missions accredited to Algeria.

Distinguished guests.

Distinguished representatives of the media.

Compatriots,

Friends all.

We are very pleased to count on your presence at this reception on the occasion of the National Day of January 1st, which marks the 65th anniversary of the triumph of the Cuban Revolution, and we do so first of all by thanking the excellent welcome of the management of this prestigious Hotel El Djazaïr, former Saint-George, which keeps so much history, and where in February 1963, hosted the first Cuban Embassy in Algiers, which remained for three months, until its transfer to a new headquarters.

We celebrate it today, coinciding with the 171st anniversary of the birth of the most universal of all Cubans, the National Hero José Martí, who in his short but intense life, left us a prolix work, with a profound humanist, revolutionary and universal thought.



EMBAJADA DE LA REPÚBLICA DE CUBA
EN ARGELIA

Martí bequeathed to us Cubans concepts such as, **"Homeland is Humanity"**, one of the many that are part of the work of the Cuban Revolution throughout these 65 years, with its internationalist vocation.

The work of the Cuban Revolution is there, with impressive social achievements, despite the economic war and a criminal blockade, which lasts for more than 60 years, imposed by the US government, that ignores the demand of the overwhelming majority of the international community to end it.

In 1883, Martí, faced with the desires of the neighbor of the North for our peoples in America, warned: clearly **"Cuba is not a beggar around the world: it walks as a sister, and acts with the authority of such. By saving herself, she saves. Our America will not fail her, because she does not fail America."**

I take this opportunity to thank and greet the presence of the Heads of Missions of the sister Nations of Latin America and the Caribbean, and to welcome the new members of the Group, the Ambassadors of Mexico and Nicaragua.

In 65 years of Revolution, Cuba has never failed the world, it has embraced the concept of solidarity its own in its ties with nations from all latitudes. It did not fail him in the fight for Independence against colonialism and Apartheid, nor in the fight against Ebola, nor the Covid19 Pandemic, providing three effective vaccines, a relevant achievement of Cuban science, nor in aid against natural disasters, nor in the battle for development.

In the bilateral order, the Cuban Revolution supported the fight of the Algerian people for independence, and recognized the Provisional Government of the Algerian Republic (GPRA) on June



EMBAJADA DE LA REPÚBLICA DE CUBA
EN ARGELIA

27th, 1961, being the first country in the Western Hemisphere to do so.

After independence was achieved, and since the establishment of diplomatic relations on October 17, 1962, in Havana, during the visit of the then Algerian Prime Minister, Ahmed Ben Bella, the links between the two revolutions registered an upward development, and they laid the foundations for 61 years of brotherhood and mutual solidarity, which have stood the test of time.

There are the visits of Che Guevara, the first in July 1963; the sending of the first internationalist medical mission to the world, in May 1963; the arrival of the first Cuban military contingent to Africa in September of that same year to help independent Algeria against Moroccan aggression in the so-called war of the sands; then the seven visits of the historical Leader of the Cuban Revolution, Fidel Castro Ruz to Algeria, as well as the visits of the Algerian leaders to Cuba, Ahmed Ben Bella, Houari Boumediene, Chadli Bendjedid and Abdelaziz Bouteflika, during those years.

These are the roots of the ties for which Cubans and Algerians feel great pride. We are pleased to have here today, with the presence of many Algerian friends, protagonists of those relations, even in the beginning of those ties, to whom we extend a heartfelt greeting.

Today, links are strengthened and register new perspectives in various areas. The visit of the Cuban President, Miguel Díaz-Canel in November 2022, and the conversations held with his brother, H. E. President, Abdelmadjid Tebboune, constituted a new milestone in the historical ties that unite Cuba and Algeria.

Based on that visit, the XXIII session of the Intergovernmental Commission and an important Business Forum were held in Havana in February 2023, which opened new horizons for cooperation in the fields of health, energy, pharmaceutical industry, culture, tourism, sports, among others.



EMBAJADA DE LA REPÚBLICA DE CUBA
EN ARGELIA

I take this opportunity to extend a warm greeting and sincere recognition to the representatives here present of the **Cuban Medical Brigade** that provides its services in Algeria, enjoying the recognition of the population and authorities, for their dedication and commitment. A heartfelt greeting and thanks also to the Cuban Medical and pedagogical brigades that provide their services in the Sahrawi refugee camps in Tindouf.

They are part of the almost 25 thousand Cuban health collaborators, who provide services in around 56 nations in the world.

On an occasion like this, **we renew the solidarity of the Cuban Revolution with the causes of the Sahrawi and Palestinian peoples for their inalienable rights. Cuba will never be in the ranks of the indifferent, in the face of the savage genocide that Israel, the occupying power, is committing today against the defenseless Palestinian population in Gaza and the West Bank and demands that it be put to an end.**

Cuba and Algeria share many coincidences on the main issues of the international agenda, where coordination is close and effective in the NAM, G77-China, HRC, among others. We have just handed over the presidency of the G77+China to the Republic of Uganda, to which we wish success. At the same time, we recognize Algeria's active role as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council since the beginning of this year. **I also wish to express gratitude for the solidarity received from Algeria throughout these years, not only in the need to end the blockade, but also in the battle for its development.**

The world does not need more wars, the world needs balance, cooperation and solidarity like never before.

I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the celebration of this evening, which we hope you enjoy. To my



EMBAJADA DE LA REPÚBLICA DE CUBA
EN ARGELIA

collaborators on the team at the Cuban Embassy in Algeria, Cubans and Algerians. To all, thank you very much. We hope you can enjoy the music and other hallmarks of Cuba, on this unique Cuban night in Algeria.

Finally, I must announce that my mission in this sister nation, after more than 4 years of intense work, will soon come to an end. I thank the authorities, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the National Community Abroad for their assistance in carrying out my duties.

My wife Miriam and I would like to thank the Algerian authorities and the fraternal Algerian people for showing their affection and appreciation for the small island of the Caribbean and for his hard-working people. **Our exciting stay in Algeria has marked us forever and we extend our wishes for its prosperity and development.**

With the same force and vigour with which the Cuban flag was unfurled, at the solemn ceremony celebrated on January 1st, in the city of Santiago de Cuba, marking the 65th anniversary of the triumph of the Cuban Revolution, I extend my wishes for the future of my country, for the prosperity of my solidary and noble people and for the future of humanity.

Viva Cuba

Viva Algeria

Long live the indestructible friendship between Cuba and Algeria

Thank you very much.