

# League of United Latin American Citizens

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### LULAC Cuban Democracy and Human Rights

Whereas, The Cuban Government regime has continued to repress all attempts by the Cuban people to bring a democratic change to Cuba and denies universally recognized liberties and human rights, including freedom of speech, association, movement and the press,

Whereas, thousands of political prisoners are currently imprisoned by the Cuban government's totalitarian regime, the Cuban government carried out a massive island-wide crackdown on members of Cuba's prodemocracy movement, during which pro-democracy non violent dissidents, independent journalist, human rights activists librarians and social scientist were arbitrarily arrested, summarily tried, and sentenced to up to 28 years for their non-violent pro-democracy activities,

Whereas, Reports on Human Rights, refers to Cuba, stating, "Members of the security forces and prison officials continued to beat and abuse detainee and prisoners, including human rights activist...prison conditions remained harsh and life threatening and the Government restricted medical care to some prisoners as a method of control. Prisoners died in jail due to lack of medical care,"

#### Be it resolved that LULAC

**Urges** the international community, human rights organizations, religious organizations to support the prodemocracy movement to bring a peaceful transition to democracy to Cuba,

**Urges** the International community to actively oppose any attempts by the Cuban government to repress or punish the civil peaceful organizers and participants, and calls for the immediate recognition of the Cuban people universally recognized liberties and human rights, including freedom of speech. association, assembly movement and the press.

**LULAC** has a long history of promoting and defending human rights. Shares the pro-democracy ideals to promote a Civil Society in Cuba and will hasten the return of freedom and democracy for the people of Cuba,

**LULAC** Calls for the immediate release of all political prisoners of conscience from Cuban jails and prisons. As they are non-violent and do not pose a threat to Cuban society.

The League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) is the oldest and largest Latino civil rights organization in the United States LULAC advances the economic conditions. educational attainment, political influence, health, and civil rights of Hispanic Americans through community—based programs operating at more than 700 LULAC councils nationwide.

Presented at the Massachusetts State Convention May 26, 2007

Adopted Unanimously this 26th of May 2007

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## PRESS RELEASE

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## LULAC Calls Upon Cuban Government to Stop Oppressing Political Dissidents

The Dama de Blanco "Ladies in White" was not allowed to come and speak at the 78th LULAC National Convention on Human Rights Panel

Chicago, IL – The nation's largest and oldest Hispanic organization today expressed its frustration and disappointment with Cuba's decision to refuse an exit visa for the wife of a prominent dissident invited to participate in a human rights panel at its annual convention.

The League of the United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), which is holding its 78<sup>th</sup> annual convention in Chicago, invited Berta Soler Fernandez to appear on a human rights panel Thursday. She accepted the invitation but was denied permission to visit the U.S. by the Cuban government. She will appear via web cast today from Havana at the workshop "Human Right Struggle in Latin America" in room 307 at the Navy Pier.

The National Board of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) in October approved a resolution calling for a peaceful transition to democracy in Cuba.

#### LULAC supports the following:

- Urges the international community, human rights organizations and religious organizations to support the Assembly's mission to bring a peaceful transition to democracy in Cuba,
- Urges the U.S. government and the International community to actively oppose any attempts by the Cuban government to repress or punish the organizers and participants of the Assembly,
- Promotes and defends human rights and shares the pro-democracy ideals that will hasten the return of freedom and democracy for the people of Cuba,
- Calls for the immediate release of all political prisoners and prisoners of conscience from Cuban jails and prisons.

The League of United Latin American Citizens, the oldest and largest Latino membership organization in the country, advances the economic conditions, educational attainment, political influence, health and civil rights of Hispanic Americans through community-based programs operating at more than 700 LULAC councils nationwide.