

**IADL INTERVENTION – Micòl Savia – ONLINE PRESS CONFERENCE on CUBA (9 June 2026)**

Good morning, good afternoon, good evening. Thanks for joining.

It is inspiring to see colleagues from across the world gathered here today. Their presence is a powerful reminder that Cuba is not alone. The Cuban people, their government and their Revolution have always enjoyed — and will always enjoy — the support of free people and democratic lawyers everywhere.

I will not enter into a detailed legal analysis. Everybody knows that the blockade is illegal. Everybody knows the devastating impact it has on the fundamental rights and daily life of the Cuban people.

For more than three decades, the United Nations General Assembly has overwhelmingly and repeatedly condemned the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States against Cuba, calling for an end to it year after year. And yet, the blockade remains in place.

Worse still, in recent months the blockade has been further intensified through the imposition of a cruel energy blockade, the adoption of new unilateral coercive measures and the expansion of its extraterritorial reach through secondary sanctions — all in open violation of the most basic principles of international law.

The illegality of the blockade is not in doubt. What is at stake today is the impunity that allows it to continue. What is at stake is the complete disregard of the United States for international law and collective institutions and their contempt for the common values of humankind.

The actions of successive U.S. administrations against Cuba make it very clear that they do not consider themselves bound by the principles of sovereign equality, peaceful coexistence and self-determination that form the foundation of the international legal order.

They openly place themselves above the law.

Coercion, intimidation, bullying, aggression and manipulation are the tools of a foreign policy that follows a single logic: a logic of domination, aimed at imposing political objectives through pressure, suffering and force.

We see this logic in Cuba. We see it in Palestine. We see it in Iran. We see it wherever people refuse to submit to their will.

Those who remain silent in the face of this growing unlawfulness and aggressiveness assume a grave responsibility, particularly when such conduct is carried out by one of the most powerful and heavily armed States in the world. By letting these policies continue unabated, and by applying double standards and selectivity while granting widespread impunity to rich and powerful States, they contribute to the erosion of the international legal order and pave the way for the rule of the jungle.

This is not only a problem for Cuba.

The United States' persistent disregard for international law, its continued reliance on coercion and force to impose its will, and its attempts to dominate peoples and resources across the globe represent a very serious threat to international peace and security. And it should be treated as such.

But Cuba also teaches us an important lesson: threats and coercion cannot defeat a people determined to defend its sovereignty.

Despite decades of hostility and attempts to subjugate the Cuban people, those efforts have failed. Cuba continues to defend its independence and freedom with dignity, courage and determination.

At the International Association of Democratic Lawyers, we are especially proud to count among our most active members the National Union of Jurists of Cuba, which celebrated its 49th anniversary just yesterday.

For nearly five decades, Cuban jurists have stood alongside their people in defence of sovereignty and the highest principles of international law. Their work, carried out under extremely difficult circumstances, is an example of legal commitment and historical responsibility for lawyers across the world.

IADL was founded in October 1946 by lawyers who had fought against fascism and contributed to building the post-war international legal order. As we approach our 80th anniversary, we are pleased to announce that IADL will hold this historic commemoration in Havana next October.

This decision reflects our firm solidarity with the Cuban people and our recognition of Cuba as one of the greatest examples of resistance to fascism and imperialism in the twenty-first century.

Today, we reaffirm our strongest condemnation of all unlawful U.S. policies against Cuba. We call on the U.S. authorities to immediately lift the blockade, withdraw the executive measures adopted on January 29 and May 1 that further intensify it, refrain from any threat or aggression against Cuba, and remove Cuba from the list of State Sponsors of Terrorism.

We also reject, in the strongest possible terms, the groundless and politically motivated indictment against Raúl Castro, which is clearly being used as yet another pretext to escalate hostility against Cuba, and we call for its immediate dismissal.

We also strongly denounce every attempt to criminalize solidarity with Cuba in the United States.

Solidarity is not a crime.

Defending international law is not a crime.

Standing with the Cuban people is not a crime.

We call on all States, institutions, banks and companies not to comply with illegal secondary sanctions, and to oppose these unlawful measures with clarity and determination in all appropriate forums.

We reaffirm our commitment to support the just struggle of the Cuban people with all the means at our disposal.

We will continue to strengthen our cooperation.

We will continue to raise our voices in every international forum.

We will continue to pursue accountability for those responsible for the unjust suffering imposed on the Cuban people for almost seven decades.

But we must be honest.

Declarations and condemnations are not enough.

The Cuban people deserve more than solidarity.

They deserve coordinated, common and determined action.

We must strengthen international solidarity. We must increase mobilization. We must expand our campaigns, our advocacy and our protests.

As lawyers, we must develop new legal strategies. We must support those targeted by unlawful coercive measures and those who face repression or prosecution because of their solidarity with Cuba. We must explore every available litigation and accountability mechanism and challenge these policies wherever possible.

We need creativity. We need determination. And we need to work together across countries and organizations.

For its part, IADL is ready and determined to contribute fully to this struggle.

Thank you.