



UK Mission to the  
United Nations  
in Geneva

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CHECK AGAINST  
DELIVERY

46

### UK STATEMENT FOR CUBA'S UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

Mr President

The UK has two recommendations for Cuba:

First, that the Cuban government ends measures to restrict freedom of expression and assembly including short-term detentions and the use of criminal charges such as "pre-criminal social dangerousness", "contempt" and "resistance".

Second, that the Cuban government take steps to strengthen the right to a fair trial and improve prison conditions through adherence to: the UN Basic Principles on the Independence of the Judiciary & the Role of Lawyers; the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; and the Standard Minimum Rules on the Treatment of Prisoners.

The UK welcomes the new migration law and the ongoing economic reforms in Cuba, but remains concerned about restrictions on freedom of expression.

The UK supports Cuba's commitment to issue invitations to the special procedures mandate holders, but notes that similar recommendations made during the first cycle of the UPR were ignored. Therefore we look forward to Cuba formally scheduling visits for UN Special Rapporteurs.

The UK remains concerned about the continued harassment and detention of peaceful opposition and human rights activists. The UK believes the reference in Cuba's national report to the "preservation of guarantees of due process" is undermined by the frequent detention of suspects without trial or charge; the lack of an independent system of lawyers or judges; and poor prison conditions.

Thank you.