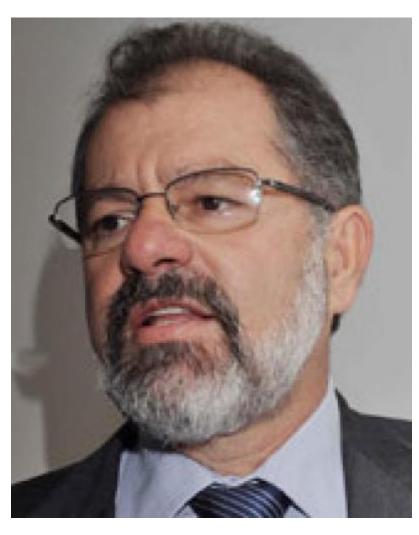
Brazilian State Assembly Condemns U.S. Blockade Against Cuba



Salvador de Bahia, September 12 (PL-RHC)-- President of the Legislative Assembly of Bahia state, Marcelo Nilo, signed Friday a motion condemning the U.S. economic, commercial and financial blockade against Cuba.

With that action, the legislative body joins the international campaign against that hostile policy that will begin on September 16th to demand its lifting.

The motion was promoted by legislator Marcelino Galo of the Workers' Party, and was backed by legislative leaders of main blocs in the state assembly.

Once the processing concludes, the initiative will be sent to Washington, where a colloquium against the blockade will be held on September 16-18.

The approval of this draft condemnation of the U.S. policy against Cuba occurred in the wake of a visit to the assembly headquarters by Cuba's general consul for northeastern Brazilian states, Laura Ivet Pujol Torres.

The Cuban diplomat talked with Galo, who is the president of the Human Rights Committee of the Assembly, and also with leaders of parties in the assembly about damages caused by the U.S. blockade since 1962.

In a television broadcast interview at the end of the meeting, the Cuban diplomat denounced that the blockade remains as a main obstacle to the socio-economic development of the Cuban people.

"We acknowledge the significant progress made in recent months in the bilateral relations between Cuba and the United States, but it is very important to make clear that the blockade has not changed and continues causing human and material damages to the people."

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