

Venezuela Says Brutal Blockade Against Cuba Must End



United Nations, October 19 (RHC-PL) -- The U.S. blockade against Cuba is a brutality that must come to an end, a cause the international community will undoubtedly support once again this year, the Venezuelan ambassador to the United Nations, Rafael Ramirez, said in New York.

Speaking to Prensa Latina news agency about the new vote on the blockade at the UN General Assembly on October 27th, the diplomat stressed the rejection of his country and the world to the economic, commercial and financial sanctions in place for over half a century.

"I think as always, Cuba will count on the maximum solidarity worldwide at the United Nations," he said. According to Ramirez, the struggle of the Cuban people against the blockade has become a universal cause against injustice.

"The brutal measure only now has supporters in the most backward sectors even within the United States itself," he said, eight days before the filing in the Assembly of a draft resolution calling for lifting the siege -- the 24th since 1992.

The initiative last year received 188 votes of the 193 possible -- as in the two previous votes -- with the isolated "no" votes of the United States and Israel.

This time, expectations seem focused on the position Washington will assume, after U.S. President Barack Obama asked Congress several times to end the blockade, converted into law with the approval of the Helms-Burton Act in 1996.

The Venezuelan ambassador to the UN said: "There is a strong rumor that the United States will abstain in this vote; we will see how it turns out."

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