

# *Cuba: Capital of Our America*

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Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega told the CELAC Summit held on the 28th and 29th of January in Havana made Cuba was the capital of Our America -- the united homeland dreamt by and fought for over two hundred years by the Liberator Simon Bolivar, Cuba's Jose Marti and many other independence heroes in our region.

Havana, Cuba's capital city, hosted this week the Heads of State and Government of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, CELAC in a meeting that has demonstrated to the world the area's political, economic and social independence.

CELAC's Second Summit has evidenced that the area does not intend to take orders from the United States and that it goes forward, united, seeking its common destiny, with mankind's fullest development as its goal.

This successful meeting also evidenced the full support of Latin America and the Caribbean for the Island of Cuba.

Analysts estimate that the Second CELAC Summit sent a powerful signal to the United States that the 600 million inhabitants of this area will not tolerate the isolation of Cuba. In fact the protempore chairmanship of CELAC by Cuba during 2013 was a unanimous recognition of the dignity and resilience of the people of the largest Caribbean island.

To the late Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, a tireless promoter of CELAC, the election of Cuba as its Protempore chairman during 2013 was an act of recognition of the Island, which has been the victim of the criminal US blockade for over half a century.

Hugo Chavez said that in selecting Cuba as its Chairman, CELAC was warning the United States with a powerful voice that all its attempts to isolate Cuba have failed and will fail. Cuba has gained during the past half century the respect and admiration of hundreds of millions of the worlds citizens, who have witnessed that a small, blockaded nation has been able to set standards of health comparable -and some times higher--that those of more developed countries.

Cuban researchers have had several medical breakthroughs in the fight against disease. One of the best known, HEBERPROT, effectively avoids the amputation of limbs affected by advanced diabetes—a true medical wonder that has saved thousands of patients all around the world.

Well known are Cuba's successes in the fields of education, sports, culture and many other areas, in which the Caribbean island has been able to confront the brute force of the US blockade, a blockade condemned by the United Nations General Assembly and by the CELAC Summit.

Despite economic noose around the Island, Cuba has shown solidarity with many countries around the world. An attitude based on principles that prevailed during its Chairmanship of CELAC during 2013.

In the CELAC Summit in Havana, Cuba handed over the Protempore Chairmanship to Costa Rica. That Central American nation is now bequeathed with the mission of building on the Organizations mission, towards a better world.

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