

He lived to struggle

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By Roberto Morejón

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The historic leader of the Revolution is a distinctive sign of the commendable efforts of Cubans, from the Mambises until today, to consolidate sovereignty and independence and to shape a better world.

Cubans see in the young lawyer who pronounced the historic plea History will absolve me before the public opinion mediatized by a dictatorship, the one who marked a singular life and instilled the certainty that it is possible to fight for social justice and achieve it.

Identified by his optimism and tenacity in the struggle against adversities, many of them derived from the hostility of the United States, the statesman always trusted in the people.

So it must have been to command the assault on the Moncada barracks, the crossing of the Granma yacht, the regrouping of forces after the agitated disembarkation and the insurrection until the triumph in 1959.

Later he would be a guide in the October Crisis, he led the combatants who repelled the mercenary aggression for Playa Giron under Washington's protection and the moral and legal struggle for the return of the then child, Elian Gonzalez, today a professional.

He also traced the path to achieve the return of five young people unjustly imprisoned for fighting against the anti-Cuban subversion in the United States and outlined the resistance of the largest of the Antilles after the fall of the former socialist camp.

Defender of science and free health and education services available to his compatriots, the dignitary guided the training of enough doctors for domestic work and for other countries.

He promoted worldwide the battle of the Third World against the unequal international economic order, with emphasis on the issue of neoliberal globalization and its consequences for humanity.

A vigorous communicator, he always worked for truth and Latin American integration, hence the admiration paid by leaders of the stature of Venezuela's Hugo Chávez, with whom Fidel Castro maintained a close friendship.

The Venezuelan said: "I want to pay tribute to Fidel and his long journey through our peoples, awakening us. Fidel is a soldier, a dreamer, an example without a doubt for all of us and for entire generations of Latin Americans, Caribbeans and fighters of the world".

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