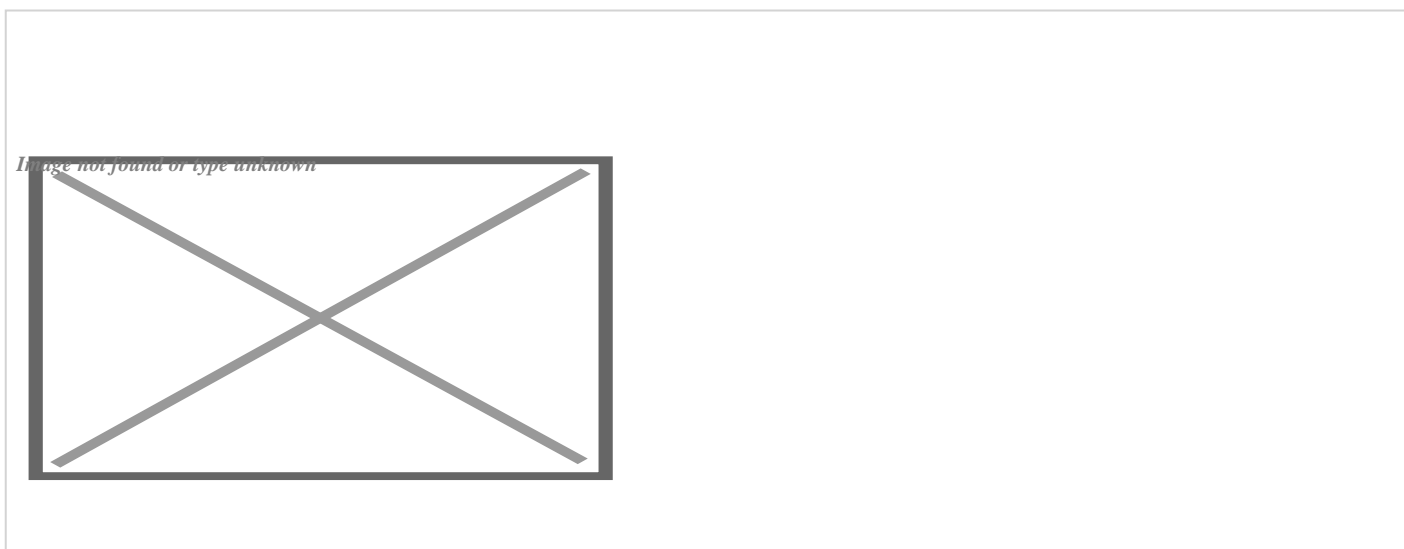


# *MIPYMES in Cuba visible, although María Elvira denies it*

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By Roberto Morejón

Born in Miami, Republican Representative María Elvira Salazar is desperately trying to make you believe in her alleged erudition about the reality of Cuba.

In a proof of the failed purpose, the legislator with a rocky line towards Cuba used a hearing of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere Affairs to impose the hoax that private entrepreneurship in the Caribbean nation is just a myth.

The tenacious proponent of the tightening of the U.S. blockade of Cuba wanted to convince her colleagues that the owners of MIPYMES, micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, are only appendages of the government.

But as evidenced by some of those gathered with opinions different from those of the angry María Elvira Salazar, it was impossible for the latter to impose her fundamentalist vision on the reality of a country she does not know.

In evidence of what some called a manifestation of racism, Salazar rejected the participation in the debate of African American Congresswoman Barbara Lee, because, in her view, she has traveled many times to Havana.

The stiff debate leader was also irritated when Democrat Sydney Kamlager-Dove accused her of appealing to what he called a "conspiracy theory" and less so when legislator Joaquín Castro, of similar partisan line, praised the conduct of former President Barack Obama, who opened a dialogue with Havana.

The head of the discussion was displeased that Joaquin Castro favored the removal of Cuba from Washington's unilateral list of sponsors of terrorism.

As it became evident, Salazar was unable to impose his perverse vision, sparked racism and highlighted his stubborn distortion of what is happening in Cuba.

As an exponent of the extreme right wing fueled by hate speech towards the neighboring country, the former TV host seems to believe that because they pay taxes to the public treasury, the owners of MIPYMES in Cuba stop controlling their businesses.

With more than 10,000 of those enterprises, Cuban entrepreneurs operate under the protection of local laws, although the state enterprise is the prevailing one.

Even though the authorities are studying distortions in their way of doing business, the MIPYMES will not end their management."Of course we are real, the idea that we are a myth does not make sense", said an astonished native entrepreneur upon learning of María Elvira's misdirections. But the latter does not listen to antagonistic opinions.

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