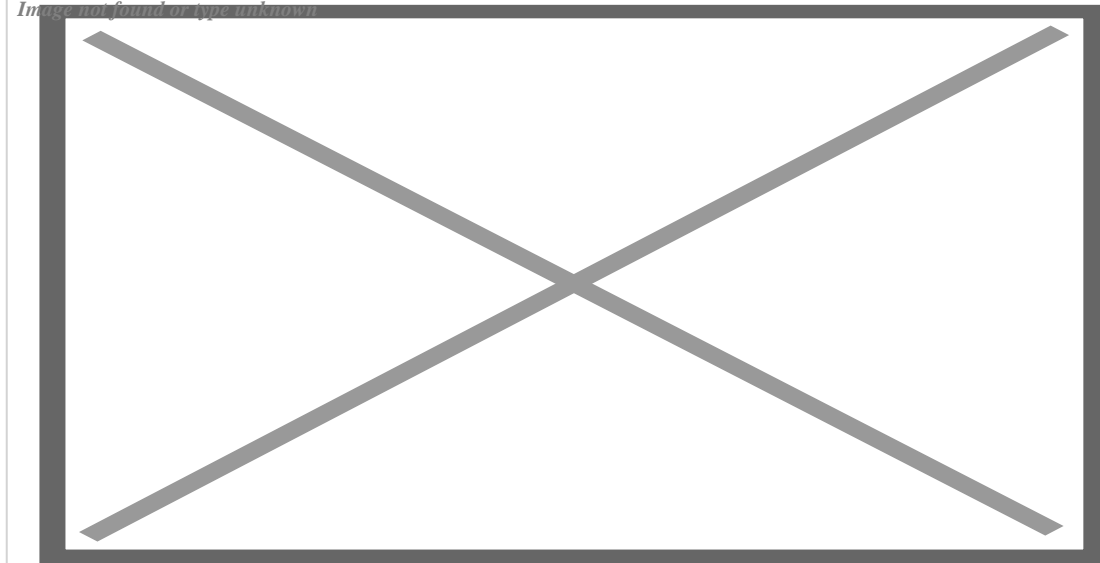


Cuba calls for de-escalation of violence in Middle East

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Havana, April 14 (RHC) -- The Cuban government called Sunday for the de-escalation of violence in the Middle East, an immediate ceasefire in the Gaza Strip and an end to the genocide against Palestinians.

A statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Minrex) ratifies the island's attachment to peace, justice and respect for international law, and recalls the Cuban government's warnings about the dangers of the impunity with which Israel acts in the region with the complicity of the United States.

The Antillean Foreign Ministry denounces that the illegal attack on the consulate of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Damascus, Syria, was a clear violation of International Law and the 1961 Vienna Convention.

Likewise, it points out that the Zionist action endangered international peace and security, propitiating the possible regionalization of the conflict with unpredictable consequences for world peace.

The Minrex statement also points out the inability of the United Nations (UN) Security Council to respond with determination to the previous bombing of the Iranian Consulate, which became the catalyst for the response of the Persian country the day before. Cuba reiterated its position that peace and stability in the Middle East depend on the achievement of a comprehensive, just and lasting solution to the conflict, including the creation of a sovereign and independent Palestinian state on the pre-1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

According to the Antillean Foreign Ministry's note, this proposal should also allow the return of refugees to their land and the entry of Palestine as a full member of the UN. (PL)

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