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The Patmos Institute is a Cuban civil society organization founded by leaders of various faiths gathered at the Eben Ezer Baptist Church, Taguayabón, Cuba, on February 2, 2013: the exercise of inter-religious dialogue; political advocacy; monitoring and specific defense of religious freedoms and education in general of Fundamental Human Rights enshrined in the thirty articles of the Universal Declaration.

"One of Us"

In case it was no longer enough that each day the Castroist regime speaks on behalf of the Cuban people without ever asking, the churches in Cuba now have to endure that the Rev. Joel Ortega Dópico speaks on their behalf. His words do not even represent the sentiments of the Council of Churches of Cuba (CIC) where, for the evil of this institution, he serves as Executive Secretary. We are well aware that "his words" under the title "United and United to Serve" were published on the CIC's digital portal without consultation, disrespecting the names associated with it, in the same style of the Communist Party that misgoverns the Island and to which the Rev. Dópico served as a spokesman with his publication.

He states that "the gospel seeks no divisions, confrontations, or privileges," daring to quote the Word of God, to attack one of us. To a Cuban and Catholic woman, Rosa María Payá, who is not only a worthy member of the Cuban people, but an active militant of sister Catholic Church in Cuba, and who possesses the spiritual privilege of being the daughter of martyr, Oswaldo Payá Sardiñas.

The unfortunate content of his diatribe is an apology of the same political order that violates religious freedoms in Cuba. The Rev. Dópico defends a system that begins by curtailing the freedom of the CIC (as evidenced by this same manipulation) but also of the denominations affiliated with the Alliance of Cuban Evangelical

In practice, the Patmos Institute functions as an informal network that tries to involve Cubans of any religious affiliation, without excluding atheists or humanists, disseminating its ideas and joining forces through publications such as The Patmos Institute blog, the journals Cuadernos de Pensamiento Plural and Nota del Cielo, and the Cubano Confesante radio program that is transmitted to Cuba every Saturday at 10 pm as part of the programming of Radio República (of the Cuban Democratic Directorate), through the radio short wave by the 31 m band in 9490Khz. The Patmos Institute frequently publishes reports and reports on violations of religious freedoms and beliefs in Cuba, and supports the training of religious activists in Cuba on human rights and religious freedoms through workshops held both inside and outside Cuba. the island. Since 2014, the Patmos Institute has awarded an annual award dedicated "to a Cuban believer consistent with his faith, such as Juan de Patmos, on the island of Cuba", and these have been: Amador Blanco Hernández, 2014; Father José Conrado Alegría, 2015; Dr. Oscar Elías Biscet, 2016; Dagoberto Valdés Hernández, 2017; Dr. Eduardo Cardet Concepción, 2018; Roberto de Jesús Quiñones Haces, 2019.

Churches (IAEA); the rest of the churches with legal registration that do not belong to either the CIC or the IAEA; of the many churches and movements that do not even have legal registration, because they are denied; but especially the Catholic Church in Cuba. The Catholic fervor of the Payá family is well known to all; and yet, on behalf of all "Cuban churches" Rev. Dópico committed the sacrilege of speaking.

Rev. Dópico uses the CIC platform to state something as exclusionary as "We do not lend ourselves to interact with people and organizations" which it also classifies as "manipulators". The Reverend's words not only slander Rosa María but also the thousands of Cubans who in the diaspora have donated to help their brothers and sisters on the Island. It is inconceivable that his statement, contrary to Christian practice and spirit, is being used to react precisely against humanitarian aid sent to the Cuban people as a genuine expression of solidarity between brothers, and especially in the context of the crisis in Cuba that is comparable to the terrible "reconcentration" of Valeriano Weyler, that the current Cuban dictators evidently intend to imitate.

Sadly, Dópico has lent his voice to the script of the Cuban people's repressors and has decided to ignore not only the reality of misery that citizens live as a result of the failed system and oppressive, but also the request of more than 15,000 families on the island who have requested this much-needed help.

With the desire to contribute to the completion of John Paul II's wish that "Cuba opens up to the world and the world opens up to Cuba", the Patmos Institute participates abroad in the Roundtable for International Religious Freedom (IRF Roundtable), and collaborates frequently sending reports with Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW); the Vatican Pontifical Commission for Latin America (PCAL), International Christian Concern (ICC), One Body, The Voice of the Martyrs (VOM); Open Doors; First Liberty; Civil Rights Defenders...

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It is for this reason that the Patmos Institute categorically rejects these words that can only be expressed in the personal capacity of the Reverend.

And, since we do not usually speak on behalf of the Cuban churches and believers without first asking them, we submit our declaration to the rubric of all religious leaders who, on behalf of their churches or ministries, wish to join this rejection of such exclusive, disrespectful and lack of Christian ethics on the part of Rev. Dópico.

With great hope for Cuba and its churches, it is time, "for darkness is passing, and the true light is already shining" (1 John 2:8b), we join and sign the present, on August 14, 2020, "Year of the Lord",

On behalf of the Management Commission of the Patmos:

Armando Antonio Pérez Pérez
Alberto Pérez González
Guillermo del Sol Pérez
Matilde Alejandra González Albornas
Leonardo Lino Rodríguez Alonso

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Signatures that are added,

- Rev. Cristina María Rodríguez Pentón - Ministerio Internacional “De Mujer a Mujer”, Santa Clara, Cuba
- Rev. Dayixys Ávila Herrera - Ministerio “Mi Viña”, Santa Clara, Cuba
- Rev. Velmis Adriana Marino González - – Ministerio “Viento Recio”, Las Tunas
- Rabbi Olaine Tejeda Beltrán – Líder de la comunidad judía Bnei Anusim, Nuevitas, Camagüey, Cuba
- Imán José Alberto Martínez Rodríguez (Abdullatif), Asociación Islámica para la Divulgación del Islam, Holguín
- Imán Niovel Alexander Tamayo Formen (Abu Duyanah), Asociación Islámica para la Divulgación del Islam, Habana
- José Gabriel Barrenechea Chávez, Ateos y Humanistas, Encrucijada, Villa Clara
- Rev. Mario Jorge Travieso Medina – Ministerio “Viento Recio”, Las Tunas
- Rev. Miguel Ángel González Álvarez, Iglesia Bautistas Libres, Habana
- Rev. Bernardo de Quesada Salomón - Ministerio “Fuego y Dinámica”, Rev. Alayn Toledano Valiente – Iglesia Emmanuel del Ministerio Apostólico “Sendas de Justicia”, Santiago de Cuba
- Rev. Daniel Josué Pérez Naranjo - Iglesia Bautista Misión Bereana, Arroyón, Chaparra, Las Tunas
- Rev. Alejandro Hernández Cepero – Iglesia Bet-El-Shalom, Habana
- Rev. Yoel Demetrio Asprón Morales - Iglesia Misionera en Cuba, Las Tunas
- Rev. Yilber Durant Domínguez – Ministerio “Fuego y Dinámica”, Nuevitas, Camagüey
- Rev. Luis Torres Rondón, Iglesia “Fuego y Dinámica”, Playa, Habana
- Rev. Jorge Luis Pérez Vázquez, Ministerio Reobot, El Cristo, Santiago de Cuba
- Rev. Marcos Antonio Perdomo Silva, Ministerio Estableciendo el Reino de Dios, Santiago de Cuba