



COMMUNITY
OF DEMOCRACIES

The Community of Democracies Parliamentary Forum

High-Level Democracy Meeting
“The Road to Democracy:
Role of the Community of Democracies Parliamentary Forum”
Vilnius, 30 June 2011

**Resolution
On the Situation in Cuba**

Whereas the Cuban dictatorship over the past 52 years has erected a totalitarian power structure that systematically violates the fundamental rights of all Cuban both in law and by its actions;

Whereas over the past 52 years this dictatorship has engaged in thousands of summary and extra-judicial executions;

Whereas hundreds of thousands of Cubans have been imprisoned for their political beliefs;

Whereas, ever since 1959 there has been a constant resistance to the Communist regime throughout the island and in exile;

Whereas the human rights movement grew out of the prisons into a NATIONAL movement capable of documenting human rights abuses, distributing copies of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, educating Cubans on human rights, and organizing petition drives to attempt to empower Cubans;

Whereas the regime has steadfastly refused to carry out any kind of political opening or democratic transition, increasing repression in order to try and repress the freedom of movement;

Whereas civic resistance is the means currently available to the Cuban people for them to regain their liberty;

Whereas Dr. Oscar Elias Biscet was one of the pioneering activists who took to the streets to distribute copies of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

Whereas this civic resistance movement has embraced the non-violent teachings of Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr.;

Whereas Cuban political prisoners Jose Daniel Ferrer Garcia, Jorge Luis Garcia Perez Antunez and Ricardo Pupo Sierra, in the summer of 2006, issued a call for non-cooperation with the regime;

Whereas Cubans in the diaspora answered this call, first by organizing a non-cooperation campaign to spread their compatriots' message, and secondly, on 18 March 2009, forming the Assembly of the Resistance, on the sixth anniversary of the "Black Cuban Spring", with over 50 civil society organizations;

Whereas Jorge Luis Garcia Perez Antunez, imprisoned for 17 years and 34 days on the charge of "enemy propaganda" for calling for Eastern European style reforms in 1990, emerged from prison having served his full sentence on 23 April 2007;

Whereas Jorge Luis Garcia Perez Antunez on 3 November 2009, along with other resistance leaders from throughout the island, established the National Civic Resistance and Civil Disobedience Front, a movement which has brought together opposition organizations in Cuba whose strategy is civic resistance and civil disobedience;

Whereas following the death of prisoner of conscience Orlando Zapata Tamao on 23 February 2010 at the hands of dictatorship, the movement was renamed the Orlando Zapata Tamayo National Front for Civic Resistance and Civil Disobedience;

Whereas the Orlando Zapata Tamayo National Front for Civic Resistance and Civil Disobedience continues to carry out coordinated protest and civic actions throughout Cuba;

The Community of Democracies Parliamentary Forum recognizes the Orlando Zapata Tamayo National Front for Civic Resistance and Civil Disobedience as a legitimate representative of the struggle for the freedom of the Cuban people;

Furthermore, we support the nomination of Dr. Oscar Elais Biscet for the Nobel Peace Prize, because of his pioneering work on human rights education in Cuba and the example he personifies as a non-violent leader in the struggle for human rights inspired by Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr.