



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

“THEY MUST GO!” FOR A FREE AND PROSPEROUS CUBA A citizens’ campaign

Q: Why “They must go!” (¡Que se vayan!)

A: That is what the Cuban people want from the dictatorship that has usurped their sovereignty and destroyed the country and the nation. It is the indispensable step to start an orderly transition toward democracy.

Q: Why now?

A: Cuba is experiencing its worst crisis —it’s systemic and structural. It’s urgent to provide its people with a some hope with reasonable proposals to end the dictatorship.

Q: What is this about?

A: “They must go!” is a plural and inclusive civic society campaign that offers the historically silenced Cuban people an opportunity to collectively express that they want the end of the dictatorship and an orderly transition to democracy. It holds that “Every signature counts. Every voice matters. We are connected!” (The latter is a phrase used by artist and political prisoner Luis Manuel Otero Alcántara and repeated in his honor and that of all political prisoners).

Q: What is the objective?

A: Its simultaneous objectives include:

- i. Provide Cubans civil society —which, in many cases, is active opposition and lacks formal channels of expression— a space to collectively express rejection of the dictatorship.
- ii. Demonstrate massive support for regime change to pressure the dictatorship both domestically and internationally.
- iii. Inspire confidence that the transition can be an orderly and viable process.
- iv. Provide a tool of resistance within Cuba —an asymmetric weapon that the dictatorship cannot contain or control.
- v. Help ensure, with a suggested basic framework, that the transition will be genuine and effective.
- vi. Encourage coordination of humanitarian aid, proposals for the country’s restoration, a pluralistic and inclusive formulation of strategies to legitimize the opposition’s actions, and support from the international community.

- vii. Make transition issues visible and foster a civic debate that helps prepare Cuban society for a complex and difficult process.

Q: What is this initiative NOT?

A: It is NOT a transition plan. It does NOT compete with transition plans or any organization. It does NOT seek to replace other proposals. It is NOT a new political movement and does NOT compete with any political or other groups.

Q: How is the initiative being carried out?

A: It consists of:

- i. [The Agreement for a Free Cuba](#). This is an intellectual foundation, not exclusive of other proposals, signed by renowned Cubans living inside and outside the island who have contributed to the struggle for freedom. Signatures are still being collected, but in less than 72 hours 140 people had signed representing a very broad spectrum of civil society including very well-known figures and many belonging to organizations. (See the document in Spanish [here](#), signatures updated to a recent date.)
- ii. [Two online petitions](#): One for [Cubans](#) and one for [non-Cubans](#).
- iii. [A text campaign](#), with texts shared via WhatsApp and SMS, which, inside Cuba, is considered a form of protest and resistance. The texts read: “THEY MUST GO! for a free and prosperous Cuba, with rights, opportunities, and hope for all.”
- iv. [A social media campaign](#) in [Facebook](#) and [X](#).
- v. [Individual expressions of support-participation](#). Signs of “¡QUE SE VAYAN!” or “QSV,” painting the island with one brushstroke, wearing sky-blue clothing.

Q: What is behind the campaign’s branding?

A: It is based on several factors:

- i. The island of Cuba of the logo can be painted with a single brushstroke and is easy to replicate.
- ii. The sky-blue color represents the movement and symbolizes the sky and the sea uniting all Cubans wherever they are.
- iii. “They must go” reflects the present historical juncture of exhaustion with the dictatorship.
- iv. Both the island and the letters can be easily reproduced together or separately. Inside Cuba — where there is fear and repression— support can be expressed by wearing sky-blue garments or displaying sign with “QSV” or “¡Que se vayan!”

Q: What is the Agreement for a Free Cuba?

A: The Agreement (“Acuerdo por una Cuba libre”) is a 3-page document proposing 20 essential measures for a genuine transition to democracy that serves as reference for the online petition and campaign. It is not exclusive of other similar declarations or proposals. It does not decide or promise anything, as there is no such mandate. How these measures would be implemented is unknown; presumably it would be by a provisional government (whose selection is unknown and not included in the document). It is a foundation and an exercise of reflection, tolerance, and pragmatism in the face of the complex challenges of a transition. It does not seek to subordinate other texts or similar efforts. Subscribing to the Agreement does not diminish any other initiative— on the contrary, it unifies and strengthens them.

Q: What are the key points proposed in the Agreement?

A: Issues considered essential components of a transition process include immediate humanitarian

aid, urgent economic measures, release of political prisoners, restoration of all freedoms, maintenance of public order and safety, dismantling of repressive bodies, effective state administration, an eventual fundamental law or Constitution, eventual free universal elections, and a transitional justice process.

A: Complex issues are addressed very generally and cannot be resolved with simplistic definitions lacking a popular mandate. Hopefully, they will be resolved in the most democratic, effective, and fair way possible.

Q: How was the Agreement drafted?

A: The executive director and co-founder of Cuba Archive drafted the document and assumes responsibility for its errors or omissions. It incorporates content from many past and present agreements. Around 50 persons were consulted when drafting a similar document in 2022 and more than 15 were consulted recently; many suggestions were incorporated before reaching the published result. It cannot be perfect and could always be improved.

Q: Who is behind this initiative?

A: The Working Group for a Free Cuba is informally organized by a core of five people with the collaboration from dozens of individuals with diverse ideologies and experiences united in their democratic principles and love for Cuba. The non-profit organization Cuba Archive promotes the initiative; for 25 years it has worked documenting the human cost of the Cuban revolution, studying transitions, and raising awareness on transitional justice and historical memory.

Q: Who funds it?

A: Most of the work has been carried out by volunteers. Cuba Archive has covered direct costs. The organization does not receive government funding and operates with voluntary contributions, managing its modest budget transparently.

Q: What will be done with the signatures?

A: Petition signatures are confidential; Action Network reports only the number of signatures in real time. Two administrators can view them and will report the countries of residence of the signers. The results will be presented to public opinion, the media, international organizations, and governments as possibilities allow.

A: The signatures of the Agreement for a Free Cuba are published on the Cuba Archive website and will be updated regularly as more are added.

Q. Summary of the 20 points of the Agreement

A. Suggested foundations for the transition to democracy:

1. **Request urgent international assistance** to address immediate needs and support the country's transition.
2. **Prohibit and punish acts of violence, abuse, and damage** against persons, state assets, and public resources.
3. **Immediately release all political prisoners** and judicially review unjust sentences.
4. **Eliminate the Communist Party's control over the State** and disqualify it until a new constitution determines whether it may be reconstituted.
5. **Dissolve agencies, enterprises, and structures linked to the Party and the military apparatus** that are incompatible with democracy.

6. **Promote urgent economic measures** that liberalize prices, production, trade, and professional practice.
7. **Encourage citizen participation in the economy** and foster transparent and competitive foreign investment.
8. **Suspend the Constitution and laws that limit fundamental rights**, establishing a true rule of law.
9. **Guarantee the free functioning of civil society organizations and democratic political parties.**
10. **Cancel political, military, or economic agreements** that are contrary to the country's democratic interests.
11. **Provisionally maintain the state structure**, removing those responsible for serious human rights violations.
12. **Keep in their positions public officials who have not committed serious violations.**
13. **Remove officials who obstruct the democratic transition.**
14. **Guarantee free access to communications and information media.**
15. **Eliminate state monopolies** in communications, the press, education, and health.
16. **Allow the return of Cubans abroad, annul politically motivated cases, and restore their rights.**
17. **Draft, within a reasonable timeframe, a new democratic constitution to be submitted to a referendum.**
18. **Call for free, plural, and internationally supervised general elections within a reasonable timeframe.**
19. **Promote a process of truth, justice, reparation, and reconciliation.**
20. **Establish standards of transparency and accountability for the provisional government.**

Links

- **Petition for Cubans**
<https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/que-se-vayan-cuba/>
- **Petition for non-Cubans**
<https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/cuba-they-must-go>
- **Agreement for a Free Cuba**
<https://cubaarchive.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Acuerdo-Par-Una-Cuba-Libre.pdf>
- **Press releases**
<https://mailchi.mp/cubaarchive.org/quesevayan>
<https://mailchi.mp/cubaarchive.org/quesevayan-cyberhunters?e=76a25a87d7>
- **Facebook**
<https://www.facebook.com/quesevayancuba>
- **X (formerly Twitter)**
<https://x.com/quesevayancuba>
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