



*Cuba Sí*



April 2020

## Appeal for donations

# Urgent support for Cuba in times of the Corona pandemic

We all have the pictures of the British cruise ship with Covid-19 infected people in front of our eyes, which was allowed to dock in the port of Mariel / Cuba on 17.3.2020 after many cancellations by other states. The passengers and parts of the crew were then flown out from Havana under great precautions and thanked exuberantly for their rescue.

Only a few days later Cuban medical brigades rushed to humanitarian missions in Venezuela, Jamaica and other Caribbean countries. A call for help also came from Italy, which was severely affected, and Cuba responded with personnel and material: they arrived there on 22 March. Cuba had already helped many other countries, including China, with a strong anti-virus agent (Interferon alpha 2B). Sincere thanks to Cuba for this consequent solidary attitude!

In the meantime it is clear: Cuba is also part of the globalised world, the Caribbean island is implementing similar protection measures as we are. Cuba has very consistently controlled and monitored the entry and has therefore so far almost exclusively had sick people who have just entered the country. The measures for the protection of the population (especially measures to reduce contact) strongly affect the economic activities. Tourism, a main source of vital foreign exchange earnings, has now come to a complete standstill.

Cuba's health system is one of the best prepared for a pandemic. Experience gained from countless humanitarian sanitation missions around the world, for example in the fight against Ebola in Africa, now makes it easier for the government and the population to take targeted action. But the almost 60-year-old blockade of Cuba by the USA, which violates international law and human rights and has been constantly intensified and supplemented by further coercive measures by the Trump government in the last few months, has severely affected the lives of Cubans, the economic development and also the health system.

- Therefore the blockade against Cuba must be ended immediately, as well as any unilateral coercive measures of the USA against other countries like Venezuela, Iran...

- Organisations of the Cuba Solidarity in Germany are calling for a fundraising campaign in consultation with the Cuban partners: after the total collapse of tourism, there is a lack of foreign currency to buy food and to maintain economic activities. We are well aware that in our countries, too, many people are existentially threatened by the consequences of the Corona pandemic, but the potential for overcoming this crisis is much greater in this country. Cuba, on the other hand, needs our support to overcome the consequences of the pandemic.

- The Cuban Ministry of Health has sent us a current concrete list of needs as a guide. It includes materials such as sheets, blankets, towels and cleaning utensils for professional use, but also medical materials in the narrower sense. We are currently investigating the possibilities of realization, taking into account also the transport and the admission procedure in Cuba. Cuba Sí (Berlin) has agreed to take over the logistics of the materials to be purchased.

**- We therefore ask for smaller and larger donations from individuals and organizations to the account of NETWORK CUBA: IBAN DE52 1001 0010 0032 3301 04 under the keyword "Corona". We will forward your incoming donation directly to the special account for donations in Cuba. We will gladly issue donation receipts upon request. We ask you to refrain from material donations.**

**The Board of the NETWORK CUBA - informationsbüro - e.V. - Germany**

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