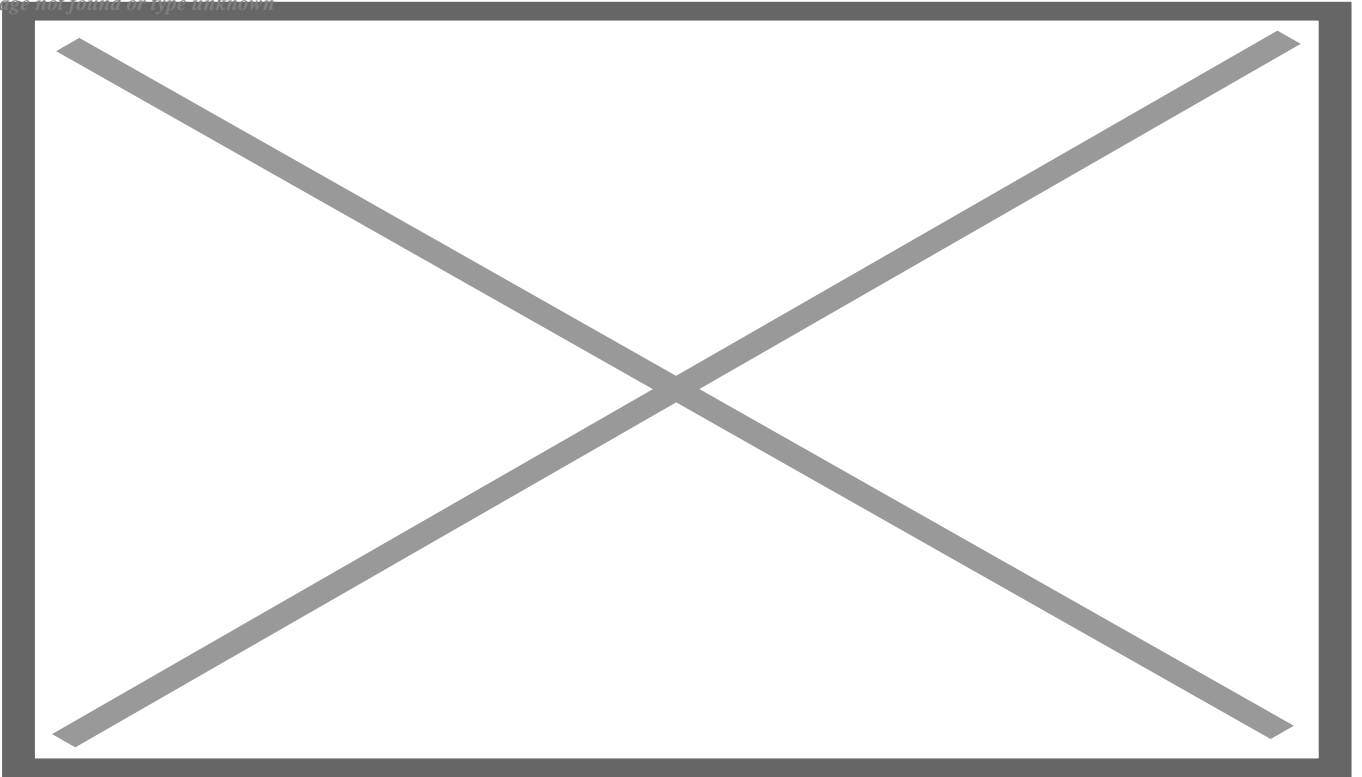


ALBA-TCP demands urgent change in U.S. policy against Cuba

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Havana, April 1 (RHC)-- ALBA-TCP member states have demanded that the United States urgently and unconditionally change its hostile policy toward Cuba, according to the Declaration of the bloc's 25th Political Council held in Caracas.

In statement's text, the Foreign Ministers and High-Level Authorities reiterated the call of the United Nations General Assembly "to immediately end the illegal economic, commercial, and financial blockade imposed by the United States" on the island for more than six decades.

The statement affirmed that this punitive measure violates the UN Charter and international law, "has a harmful impact on the human rights of the Cuban people, and is the main obstacle to their development."

The Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America-People's Trade Agreement (ALBA-TCP) also demanded "the immediate exclusion of Cuba from the arbitrary and unilateral list of states that allegedly sponsor terrorism" drawn up by the United States Department of State.

This decision, it noted, "intensifies the economic siege against that country to unprecedented levels, with serious impacts on its population." It expressed its gratitude and recognized Cuba's medical cooperation programs, which "save countless lives and constitute a very important pillar of health systems" in Alliance countries and others in the region, while rejecting the administrative measures and political pressure imposed by Washington.

The Latin American and Caribbean integration bloc also demanded the "immediate lifting of the unilateral coercive measures imposed against the peoples and governments of Nicaragua and Venezuela," which violate the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and international law.

In this regard, it reaffirmed its solidarity with the governments and peoples of both countries in their struggle to defend peace, sovereignty, and development with social justice.

The document rejected the U.S. policy of "turning third countries in Latin America and the Caribbean into reception and detention centers for migrants," which undermines their sovereignty and raises concerns in the international community about the impact on human rights.

In this regard, it repudiated the political and media manipulation that justifies deportations as a solution to the migration crisis, concealing the true structural causes of the phenomenon.

In addition to "ignoring the guarantee and protection of dignity and human rights and inciting racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and fascism," it noted.

ALBA-TCP expressed solidarity with Palestine by demanding "an immediate end to the illegal occupation" of its territories and the outrageous and aberrant media humiliation, ignoring the suffering of that people. It also ratified the recognition of a sovereign state with East Jerusalem as its capital.

(Source: Prensa Latina)

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