Cuba Challenges Covid-19 Pandemic

Cuba
Playa Girón: A Lesson for U.S.

Economy
Covid-19 vs. World Economy

Sports
Mijaín López, the Champion
Havana.- Tourism is one of the main economic sectors affected by Covid-19 around the world due to the suspension of most of the air and sea travel, hotels and travel agencies, which now encourage people to stay at home. Currently, many of the hotels in the capital are almost empty, and the island increasingly faces. Officials of the Cuban Ministry of Tourism (Mintur) say that we have to set our sights on the future, stay at home and for now, just think about traveling. They stated that 44 percent of the hotels in Cuba have total WRR connections, while 62 percent – four and five star hotels – operate this service in all areas, as part of the development taking place in the sector. In 2019, Mintur added 2,981 new rooms – 62 percent – four and five star hotels – which represented a decrease of 9.26 percent in comparison to the previous year, because of the negative U.S. pressures that the island increasingly faces.

HAVANA.- The triumph of the Cuban Revolution on January 1, 1959, changed the United States of balance, as the imperialist power had never conceived of such a process only 90 miles from its territory. The U.S. government had not predicted an event of that kind due to its particular history with Cuba, an economically, socially and culturally dependent country. Therefore, the U.S. scrambled to destroy the island of sanctuaries at all costs, even if it meant direct military intervention. Many historians argue that Washington learned its lesson well, although it underestimated the revolutionary movement until the Bay of Pigs victims, a moral and political victory for the cause of Cuban independence, led by Fidel and Raúl Castro and other brave commanders such as Camilo Cienfuegos and Argentine Che Guvara, made the United States change its stance.

Playa Girón: A Lesson for the U.S.

Playa Girón was for Cubans the confirmation that attacking Cuba by any means possible, was the only way to achieve their goal of dependency for the U.S. government. It revealed the strength of the Cuban people could defend itself to a foreign attack. Likewise, it provided the decisive argument for the U.S. to change its stance.

The military attack began on April 17, 1961, but two days earlier war planes had simultaneously attacked the San Antonio de los Baños Air Base (in Cuba’s central-northern region), among others. The country annually suffers over 4 million foreign visitors, and before the outbreak of the pandemic, our destination was still one of the first choices by travelers from all over the world, despite the blockade imposed by Washington on Cuba, which has greatly impacted the arrival of visitors.

Russia was the market that experienced the highest growth in the number of visitors, growing 30 percent, thus placing itself as the fourth country with the most visitors. Canada continued in the first place, followed by Germany, France, the United Kingdom, Italy and Spain. The pandemic and following suspension of tourism give the industry a reason to focus on the quality of services, and actions taken before and after the virus, as to experts, this sector is going to experience a strong resurgence.
COVID-19 and Harmful U.S. Blockades

By Walko MENDIUZA

HAVANA.- The enforcement, by the United States government, of the prohibition of charter flights to Cuba —with the exception of Havana—is one of the most recent measures taken against the island, of a long list that U.S. President Donald Trump has imposed. This new prohibition echoes the human rights of the Cuban people as well as U.S. citizens’ right to freely travel across the border, and strengthened the blockade Washington ship travel and the persecution against ships. The suspension of charter flights between any air terminal in the United States and Cuba, with the exception of the Jose Marti International airport, affects nine international airports on the island.

The new action was added to the list of 190 violations mentioned by Western Union Washington against Cuba since 2017, which includes the closing of consulates around the U.S. embassy in Havana, the suspension of cruise ship travel and the persecution against any carrier carrying oil to the island.

In this way, Cuba became the first country in January of 2019, that U.S. President Trump imposed on the island, to add the strengthening of ties between the United States, according to Washington, strengthens the extraterritorial nature of the remittances to Cuba from countries except those issued from the United States.

At the end of February of this year, the United States determined to impose new sanctions on Cuba, which were applied to the island, to enforce international pressure with the United States, “Western Union can lose its capacity to operate transactions to the island,” warned the company, stating that, “because of the blockade and the capacity in Cuba to operate transactions to the island, except those issued from the United States.”

The company also warned that, “Because of U.S. economic sanctions of January 2019, has no limits, he wrote on Twitter. The restrictions on travel and trade, and the U.S. government has no capacity to operate transactions to the island, except those issued from the United States, Cuba’s remittances and sanctions against Cuba’s financial transactions to the United States are on the rise.”

Transportation, family finances, the circulation of basic products and medicines, and even important medical goods that are urgently needed due to the coronavirus pandemic, can no longer reach Cuba because of the blockade, and further implementation of the sanctions against Cuba.

The Cuban government decided to keep the medical cooperation in the 59 countries where this act existed before the spread of the coronavirus, as so to turn them into a stronghold against the pandemic. On the other hand, a number of countries have asked Cuba to supply them with inexorable Interferon Alpha 2B (IFN), a therapeutic medicine of a critical action used by China, together with other medicines, to cope with the new coronavirus outbreak.

“Cheer up Cuba, we will beat this and live on,” the Cuban president told the people.

Cuba Challenges Covid-19 Pandemic

By Rosmery BERNAL

HAVANA.- The world is under distress due to the devastating effects of the coronavirus SARS-CoV-2. So far, the world has recorded 114,000 human lives, with almost two million confirmed cases in 192 countries.

Amid this situation, Cuba reinforces its preventive measures to control the spread of the pandemic within the country, which records 2,305 cases, 121 of which remained in hospitals (95.5%) and 206,714 deaths (4.5%).

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Victor Manuelle Praises Cuba’s Influence on Salsa Music

By María Martínez

HAVANA.—While closing the 5th International Salsa Festival held in Havana, Puerto Rican singer Victor Manuelle recognized the influence that Cuban musicians have had on all salsa artists around the world.

Salsa music enthusiasts from several countries met in the Cuban capital to dance and sing until very late at night with famous Cuban bands and the Puerto Rican salsa performer, who delighted the audience by singing several of his greatest hits.

On March 1, Club 500 of the José Antonio Echeverría Recreational Complex, the festival’s main venue, was packed with people that challenged low temperatures as they were waiting for the clock to strike 1:00am to welcome the interpreter of songs like “tango” groups. “Como se le explica al carabiniere” and “Dile a ella.”

Many said that this opportunity to continue dancing, as the crowd had danced already to the rhythm of bands such as Noa Maria Mompó, La Sonora el Bambuco and El Nefis y la Verdad.

Victor Manuelle pleased the audience with both lively and rather slow songs such as “Es la vez.” “Quí ha habido sio de me,” “Yo tratado” and “Sicuro m’besa’ among others.

Since the very beginning, the artist expressed his gratitude for ranging in the cradle of salsa music and said that the similarities between Cuban and Puerto Rican people made him feel like home.

He also thanked Cubans for the affection towards the Puerto Rican artist and pronounced in favor of cultural exchanges, especially those developed in the field of music.

Victor performed songs by Cuban authors that he has included in his repertoire, such as “El Agajal” by Manolito Simonet, “Que soñan los tabores” by Primera Expresión and “La vida es un carnaval” by Celso Cerro, which closed the 2-hour concert in high spirits.

The audience raised their hands in joy and Cuban and Puerto Rican flags flew overhead almost the whole night. Overwhelmed by emotion, Victor Manuelle narrated that the two countries carry the salsa music in their blood, and confessed that he has been listening to Cuban music since he was a child.

Likewise, he paraphrased Puerto Rican poet, journalist and revolutionary activist Lola Rodríguez de Tió by saying: “Cuba and Puerto Rico are like the two wings of the same bird.”

Led by Cuban musician Maykel Blanco, the International Salsa Festival held in Havana for six days brought together 19 top-notch local bands including Adalberto Alvarez y Su Son, Alan Pérez, Los Van Van and Alexander Abreu y Havana D’Primera.

Like every year, the festival included workshops on different Cuban dance genres and visits to places linked to music production on the island such as recording studios and conservatories, among other places of interest.

Víctor Manuelle Praises Cuba’s Influence on Salsa Music

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A Fight Against Impunity in Colombia

By Massiel Fernández

In Bogotá, the Colombian National State Crime Victims Movement (MOVICE) has been fighting for the last 15 years against impunity and for the recognition of State crime as a pressing issue.

The Havana Reporter (THR) spoke to Luz Marina Hache, a member of MOVICE and victim of enforced disappearance for 33 years, about the work the movement conducts and the persistence of violence in the country.

THR: Why was MOVICE created 15 years ago?

Luz Marina Hache (LMH): MOVICE was created 15 years ago. At that time, the negotiation of the government, headed by Álvaro Uribe (President from 2002 to 2010), with the EP guerrilla movement was signed. That's why the crimes against humanity, the war crimes, have to do with MOVICE. When peace talks started, victims were nearly always trade union leaders, student or social leaders who opposed the status quo and demanded freedom. The State fails to comply with the right to life, to freedom, to education, to a job, or to a dignified home. In this movement, we demand the right of the people to life and freedom.

THR: In a country like Colombia, what are the main obstacles a movement like MOVICE faces in the execution of its work?

LMH: The ignorance on the part of the State as to the responsibility it bears in the perpetuation of those crimes. The Colombian Constitution establishes the obligation of the State to protect the life, honor and wellbeing of each citizen. The State has not protected its people, but rather those with economic value; it has not protected the majority of the people. That means that the State is responsible.

THR: In your experience in MOVICE, based on what you have seen and lived as a Colombian woman, do you really think that this country can move forward and be stable and lasting?

LMH: The violence that people are living today is the same the people lived in the 1980s, with one major difference today. Mass media and technology have allowed the world to know what is happening in Colombia.

In the past, murders and disappearances happened more quietly and only a few knew about it. That difference makes me think that it is possible for Colombia to have a different future.

In your opinion, the reason why selective murders are conducted in the country, including massacres, enforced disappearances, displacements, threats, false positives—which are nothing but extrajudicial executions or legal setups against people who don't agree with the State—is that those who defend the status quo have no reason to worry, but those like me, who think and act differently, have a lot to worry.

THR: In your experience in MOVICE, based on what you have seen and lived as a Colombian woman, do you really think that this country can move forward and be stable and lasting?

LMH: At that time, the negotiation of the government, headed by Álvaro Uribe (President from 2002 to 2010), was being discussed. Then, victims like me, each with their own stories and representing different organizations, decided to get together and start our dialogue with the government. On October 2004, we held a meeting with 400 delegates and decided to create an organization to include all the people who had been victimized due to actions or omissions on the part of the State.

On June 2005, in a national meeting with about 2,000 delegates from different areas of the country, MOVICE was created. International delegates from about eight countries and victims living abroad also attended the meeting.

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U.S. Ballerina Exalts Cuban Dance

By Yelena RODRIGUEZ

Havana.- The level of dance technique and methodology in the United States is very high, but Cuba is on par, the artistic director of the Rocky Mountain Ballet Theater, Charlene Campbell, said in Havana. The distinguished dancer, who gave a lecture at the headquarters of the Lizt Alfonso Dance Cuba (LADC) Company on her first visit to Cuba, spoke highly of Cuban dancers, and said that their work enjoys international recognition.

“I am the president of the Ballet Beyond Borders Festival in the United States, an organization that receives artists from more than 30 countries and aims to accomplish global communication and understanding through dance,” she noted.

“We want to materialize projects with this company and its school because it has a unique way of approaching dance, not only taking from classical or contemporary ballet but from all forms of art. This is perfect for my organization,” said Campbell. During the meeting at the LADC headquarters in the historic district of Havana, Campbell was accompanied by the executive director of Ballet Beyond Borders, Karen Carreno, and dancers Piper Leistiko and Naomi Byrne.

Leistiko and Byrne came to Havana after winning a scholarship granted by Professor Lizt Alfonso during the Ballet Beyond Borders Festival held in January 2020 in Missoula, the United States. They were important because they enriched the mind, spirit, and way of thinking and, therefore, the way you move on the stage, Lizt Alfonso sustained.

The Cuban dance teacher talked about the collaboration with Ballet Beyond Borders and Charlene, which started a year ago when she attended the latest two editions of the festival (in Los Angeles and Missoula). It is a unique and beautiful event that goes far beyond human borders and gives opportunities to people with disabilities or that are marginalized because of their ethnic or religious beliefs and are not within the unjust standards of society, she noted.

“My participation in this project has allowed me to confirm that this cliché phrase is true: a better world is possible; but only if people pursue the way they do this festival,” she added.

The Good Will Ambassador of the UN Children’s Fund exhibited the influence of the Cuban Ballet School and the work of Alicia and Fernando Alonso in the United States through the creation of the American Ballet Theater.

Charlene, precisely, danced with that company, her preparation apparent in every way of teaching, training, and in the execution and timing of every movement, she said.

“I also recognize details from the school history interviews, Alicia and Albertos Alonso. Those common elements are like signs of gratitude to their legacy and show that the language of dance is both unique and universal, the professor concluded.

166 years old and still preserves almost all of its original pieces. The full name of this locomotive is La Juventud de Fomento, in recognition of the Count of Villanueva. It was built in 1943 by the Matanzas Railroad Company, at the cost of 6,700 dollars. Its manufacturer, Thomas Rogers, was an important steam locomotive constructor of the 18th century.

Other pieces treasured at the museum include the locomotive known as Manning, the name of the English factory where it was built, in 1873. This is the second oldest locomotive currently in Cuba and is an English steam locomotive made by that factory that has been preserved worldwide. Other collectors exhibited at the museum include communication equipment and road signs, as well as photos and other pieces related to the railroad’s labor movement.

There is also an area that reproduces the operation room of a railroad station as if it were the beginning of the 20th century, in addition to a steam crane, passengers’ coaches and freight car.

Similarly, there’s a railway modeling room with models and equipment of many sizes made with different materials. The museum also includes a specialized library and newspaper library that gather materials and documents about the history of rail in Cuba.

Visitors can also enjoy the 1112 steam machines used in the filming of the Cuban film “José Martí: el ojo del canario” (2011), and the area that portrays the operation room of a railroad station as if it were the beginning of the 20th century.

Steam, diesel and electric locomotives are exhibited at the museum. One of the main attractions is La Juventud, the oldest locomotive kept in the country which is currently in Cuba and the only English steam locomotive built in the United States.

History and Culture on Display at Havana’s Railroad Museum

166 years old and still preserves almost all of its original pieces. The full name of this locomotive is La Juventud de Fomento, in recognition of the Count of Villanueva. It was built in 1943 by the Matanzas Railroad Company, at the cost of 6,700 dollars. Its manufacturer, Thomas Rogers, was an important steam locomotive constructor of the 18th century.

Other pieces treasured at the museum include the locomotive known as Manning, the name of the English factory where it was built, in 1873. This is the second oldest locomotive currently in Cuba and is an English steam locomotive made by that factory that has been preserved worldwide. Other collectors exhibited at the museum include communication equipment and road signs, as well as photos and other pieces related to the railroad’s labor movement.

There is also an area that reproduces the operation room of a railroad station as if it were the beginning of the 20th century, in addition to a steam crane, passengers’ coaches and freight car.

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History and Culture on Display at Havana’s Railroad Museum
By Alan VALDES

The idea of bringing the general elections – both parliamentary and presidential, forward, initially launched by the Coalition for Change (ignoring the Communist, Progressive and the Social Green Regional Federation Parties), has found more support, even from some former members of Chávez opposition.

Although the President has reiterated that his duty as president is to finish the 200th anniversary of independence -a battle, because of all the serious problems caused by the coronavirus around the world- badly hitting the Andean country- now adding to the socio-political factors.

The forceful results of the polls (initially launched by the Coalition for Change Community party led by former President Morales, contains the majority of Bolivians and the State's natural resources nationalized by the Morales government. While also wanting to privatize the role in the country's economy, eradicating social policies for the majority of its closest rival, the Citizens Community party led by former President Carlos Mesa, thus confirmed, such as the ProSanta Cruz Civic Committee, have spared no persecution, judicial processes and made sure that the Morales government unsustainable, according to many.

The text reiterates the need to recover economic growth with the Piñera administration. Independent Senator Alejandro Guillier was even more critical, saying that the country lives in complete uncertainty as to what the future has in store for them.

According to Guillier, this situation is the result of the lack of governability in the country under the Piñera administration. Hence, criticism increases and many people poorly rate the adopted national policy. The secretary confirmed, such as the ProSanta Cruz Civic Committee, have spared no persecution, judicial processes and made sure that the Morales government unsustainable, according to many.

One candidate.

However, there is a major problem: the impact of Covid-19 has been more than just a health crisis, it has been a recession, exacerbating existing economic imbalances and vulnerabilities. Although this sector was supported by the U.S. Federal barrel.

In the case of the aviation industry, a downfall of up to $252 billion has been predicted in annual passenger revenue, a 44 percent drop compared to 2019, as a result of the severe travel restrictions and restricted world recession, according to the International Air Transport Association.

Curing arguments, political purges, presidential processes which are not about fighting cases of illegal electoral fraud are some of the latest moves by the Piñera administration to suppress anti-government demonstrations, according to the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, a German think tank, confirmed MAS’s advantage, with Arce and his electoral pair defending the Ariro-Cochechaque ticket leading the statistics. However, these are people that support that the Bolivian right will not give up the ground ease and closed ranks.

The tendency is clear. The results of a poll by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, a German think tank, confirmed MAS’s advantage, with Arce and his electoral pair defending the Acro-Cochechaque ticket leading the statistics. However, these are people that support that the Bolivian right will not give up the ground ease and closed ranks.

According to the study, MAS is supported by 35.3 percent of those polls, nearly ten percent more than in the previousredded less than a month ago.

The most interesting element is that MAS is over 15 points ahead of its closest rival, the Citizens Community party led by former President Carlos Mesa, thus getting closer to the 40 percent minimum of valid votes, with an advantage of at least ten points to win the first round.

The government is working on the revision of the electoral law in order to make it simpler and more accessible to the citizens. The law establishes a system of proportional representation and individual representation.

In the context of the political crisis, many people have been displaced from their homes and are seeking refuge in other areas of the country. The government is working on providing them with necessary resources, such as food, water, and shelter, to ensure their safety and well-being.

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Helms-Burton Act, the largest of the Antilles, while granting the law establishes among its articles In contradiction with international law, compensation agreements then proposed nationalizations in Cuba, confirmed in the legality established during the state property after January 1, 1959. confiscated properties, a result of the companies investing in the so-called cooperation with the island. In this way, it established the permission of Title II was described by the Cuban authorities as ‘blackmail to by investor letters to American Airlines and the cruise company have been the target of lawsuits, among To date, several North American companies Cuba, now with an international character. To continue witnessing the epic achievements of the great Mijaín López.

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