



# Toronto Forum on Cuba

## Newsletter

July 18, 2015

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Volume #62

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Issue #2

## Cuba's Sports & Pan Am Games Defectors

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

The news of the defection of four Cuban rowers was massive and the analysis of their reasons for defective was extensive in the media through interviews conducted with sports analysts (whose professional job is coach-reading and whose objective is to snatch athletes by enticing them to defect, while shoving their deep pockets full of money) and anti-Cuba political experts who portrayed the defectors as "men wanting democracy, not dictatorship" and "running away from hunger, backwardness and isolation from the world". So, please bear with me and let's analyze Cuban sports (click [HERE](#) for a more detailed history on our website).

Since the victory of the Cuban revolution in 1959, access to sports facilities and to professional physical education has become an undeniable right for everyone living on the island, which was something previously enjoyed essentially in private clubs, only by the upper middle class and the rich.

That is why Cuba's achievements on the world stage of sports and in the Pan Am Games (where it presently holds the 4th overall place), are the envy of all those who care about a healthy population and, in particular, the imperialist classes in Canada and in the United States, which depend on their bankrupt capitalist system, spending millions upon millions of dollars in order to win medals while ordinary working people and their children have to pay a hefty price in order to have access to sports facilities and training in private clubs. Never mind the charities and fundraising events, which oftentimes still end up having to come to the rescue in order to make it happen!

So, why have these four Cuban athletes defected to the U.S.?

The criminal U.S. blockade imposed on Cuba since the early days of the triumph of the revolution, which is intended to starve the nation island into submission complemented by the Cuban Adjustment Act, which offers automatic residency and other benefits to any Cuban national (Cubans who enter its territory via the wet-foot dry-foot policy are the only people in the world with this privilege!) are certainly some of the possible reasons for

which some are willing to risk their lives, boarding unsafe boats on the high seas and other such things, in an attempt to get to the professed "promised land".

The four defective athletes -and I use the word 'defective' purposely- will soon learn that a free, public and humane healthcare system available to anyone who needs it, for them exists ... no more! Tens of millions of U.S. citizens have no health insurance and no facilities or professionals to take care of them, when they get sick. These young men, who have been lured by Uncle Sam's propaganda machine, should know that access to free education and to arts facilities available to all, for them exists ... no more!

And, lastly, these young defective human beings will learn firsthand, that in the "land of opportunities" there will be no acclamation of "Homeland Is Humanity" as was declared by José Martí -Cuba's apostle who sacrificed his life fighting against Spanish colonialism- and which is being practiced today by the thousands of Cuban young men and women bringing literacy and healthcare to millions of other human beings in need, to all corners of the world, while thousands of humble youth from all over the world are studying to become doctors in Cuban universities, because the small nation island is sharing what it has.

Those who have defected from the values of the Cuban revolution will face and experience the individualistic dog-eat-dog culture while the Cuban nation will continue to stand tall in front of the world's Goliath with internationalizing solidarity and the ongoing achievements of its athletes in the Pan Am Games with medals for humanity with ethics and humility.

Needless to say that the Pan Am games, which has cost hundreds of millions of dollars and was accompanied by gentrification in the city, chose the theme of "we are together" however, one of its Panamania cultural presentations, chose to make fun of three of the most contemporary personalities of the Americas -late president Salvador Allende, the ever present Ernesto "Che" Guevara and inspiring Fidel Castro- in "*La Imaginación del Futuro*". What an oxymoron to the chosen concept of "coming together"!

Fraternally yours,

Morteza Gorgzadeh  
for Toronto Forum on Cuba  
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[torontoforumoncuba@rogers.com](mailto:torontoforumoncuba@rogers.com)

*ps. Happy Eid to all the Arab and Muslim sisters and brothers, in particular those who showed their solidarity with the people of Palestine on Al-Quds Day, while fasting, in the face of the ongoing racism and Islamophobia propagated by the reactionary forces.*

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## **SPORTS IN CUBA** **a brief history**

*Special thanks to  
Alfonso Lloréns Betancourt*

## **EL DEPORTE EN CUBA** **una breve historia**

*Agradecimientos especiales a  
Alfonso Lloréns Betancourt*

First Vice President of the UNEAC in Matanzas, CUBA  
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Vicepresidente Primero de la UNEAC en Matanzas, CUBA  
por proporcionar Toronto Forum on Cuba con el material informativo.

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Sports in Cuba, a brief history  
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El Deporte en Cuba, una breve historia  
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**ONLY DESTRUCTION AND DEATH**

**Toronto Forum on Cuba**

**Poetas por la Paz CANADA**

**SUNDAY POETRY** Anti Colonialist Working Group

**Against Wars Day for Peace in**



# **Palestine-Middle East-Colombia**

## **ELLINGTON'S MUSIC AND CAFE**

**805 St. Clair Ave. West - Toronto**

**Sunday, July 19, 2015 - 12:00 to 3:00 p.m.**



**POETRY  
and  
MUSIC**

### **Participants:**

**Darryl Richardson**

**Zeidy Sevilla**

**Manuel Mesa**

**Morteza Gorgzadeh**

**Steve Hall**

**María Elena Mesa-Mejía**

**Negin Motamed**

**Moraima Rincón**

**Carlos Angulo-Rivas**

**Roy Garrick and the drum circle**

**MC's: Arnold Itwaru and**

**Natasha Ksonzek**

**OPEN MIC**



**Sponsored by World Poetry Movement**



## Cultural evening of Solidarity with Venezuela

*We are celebrating the birthdates of Simon Bolivar and Hugo Chavez*

With the presence of the Honorable Council General of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela Martha Pariso de Marquez

Where: Beit Zatoon (Markham and Bloor, 1 block west of Bathurst Subway Station)  
When: July 24<sup>th</sup>, 6 P.M.

- We will be presenting the documentary "El Libertado"
- Music
- Poetry



Endorsed by Toronto Forum on Cuba



## CELEBRATE Cuba's Rebellion Day

Sunday

**July 26<sup>th</sup>**

2:00pm

to

6:00pm

**United Steelworkers' Hall**

25 Cecil St.

(one block southeast of College and Spadina)

**JULY 26**

**Dedicated to Cuban Internationalist Healthcare & Education Workers**



On July 26th, 1953 a group of brave young Cubans, led by Fidel Castro, attacked the Moncada and the Carlos Manuel de Céspedes garrisons, symbols of the tyranny and occupation of Cuba under the U.S. puppet regime of Batista.

Although the attack was militarily defeated, it raised the banner of struggle, which would lead to the victory of the Cuban Revolution on Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> 1959.

This year we cheer the return of the Cuban Five to their families and their homeland and we dedicate this year's celebration to the selfless Cuban internationalist healthcare workers who courageously volunteered to battle the Ebola virus in Western Africa and the Cuban internationalist education workers whose hard work and dedication have taught more than eight million people throughout the world, how to read and write.

### A POLITICAL AND CULTURAL EVENT

**SPECIAL GUEST**  
Professor Keith Ellis on  
*The Legacy of Eduardo Galeano*

**LIVE MUSIC**  
Ernesto Espinoza & Pablo Gutierrez  
Wally Brooker

**HOMEMADE HALAL FOOD**

And much more....  
...Stay tuned...

**ORGANIZED BY:** Toronto Forum on Cuba - [www.torontoforumoncuba.com](http://www.torontoforumoncuba.com), [torontoforumoncuba@rogers.com](mailto:torontoforumoncuba@rogers.com)

José María Heredia's Immortal

# NIÁGARA

A PAN-AMERICAN STORY

About Creative Team Artists News Contact



## Contact

For questions about "NIÁGARA - A Pan-American Story" please e-mail:

[info@niagarapoem.com](mailto:info@niagarapoem.com)

For ticket questions, please contact the Young Centre for the Performing Arts:

Phone: 416.866.8666

Email: [info@youngcentre.ca](mailto:info@youngcentre.ca)

GET TICKETS NOW

World Premiere  
Performances  
July 23-26, 2015

Ada Slight Hall—  
Daniels Spectrum  
585 DUNDAS ST. EAST,  
TORONTO, ON.



21  
fiesta  
de la  
cultura  
iberoamericana  
24 al 30 de octubre  
Holguin, Cuba  
2015

La multiculturalidad  
y las culturas  
alternativas

## \*\*\*\*\*CALENDAR OF EVENTS\*\*\*\*\*

*Cuba Min Rex*

Sitio Oficial del Ministerio  
de Relaciones Exteriores de Cuba

SECCIÓN ESPECIAL  
CUBA - EEUU



## LINKS / ENLACES

- *National Committee to Free the Cuban Five*
- *Int'l Committee for the Freedom of the Cuban Five*

- *Antiterroristas*
- *Canadian Network on Cuba*
- *Latin American and Caribbean Solidarity Network*

- *Embassy of Cuba in Canada*
- *Asociación de Cubanos JUAN GUALBERTO GÓMEZ*



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