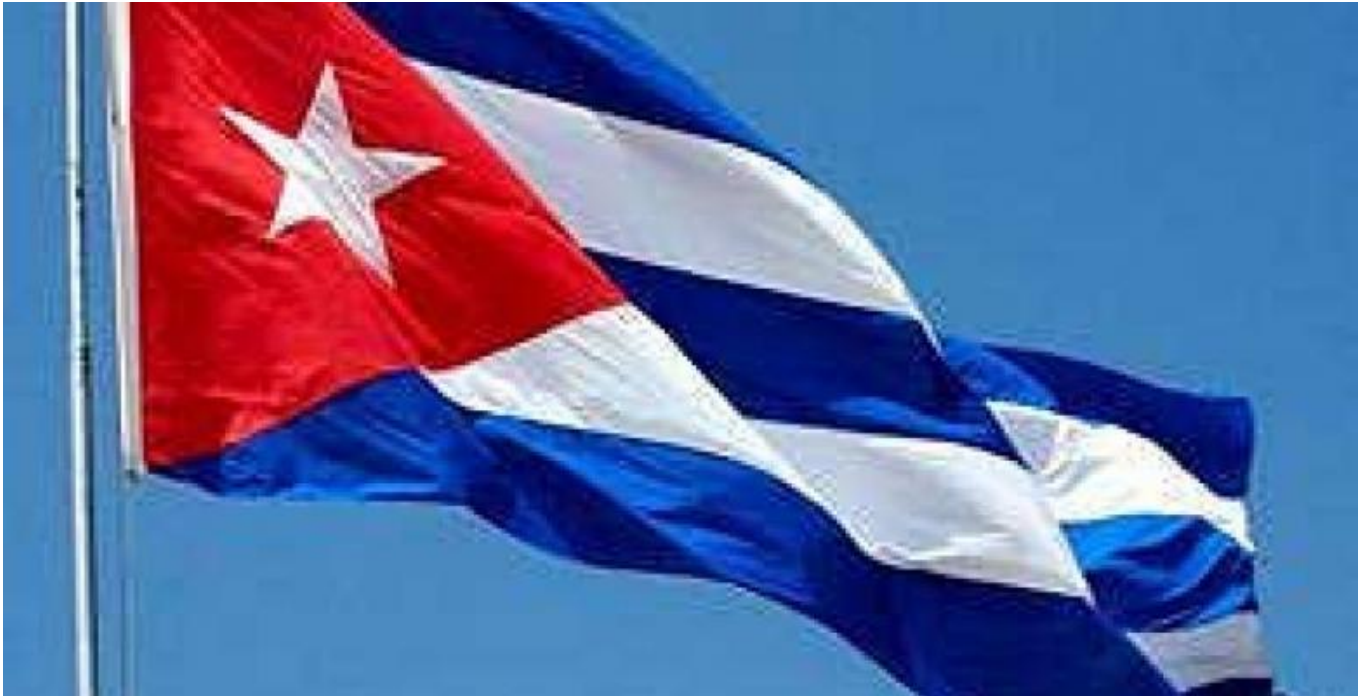

International Solidarity Meeting with Cuba to Be Held

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More than 1,000 working and trade union activists from all the continents will take part in the International Solidarity Meeting with Cuba on May 2 as part of the activities for the May Day.

Ernesto Freire, head of the Department of International Relations of the Cuban Workers Central Trade Union (CTC), said this event with more than 10 years of life will have a special character, with the presence of the five antiterrorist fighters known as the Cuban Five.

The liberation of the Cuban Five was always a central topic in meetings like this, from where supporting initiatives came out to support their cause.

This is why a great chance for the Cuban Five to show their gratefulness to those who did things in favor of them, and mobilized the world's public opinion, Freire stated.

Gerardo Hernandez, Ramon Labañino, Antonio Guerrero, Rene Gonzalez and Fernando were arrested by US authorities in 1998 and sentenced in a rigged process to disproportionate penalties for warning of violent actions taken against Cuba from US soil by terrorist groups.

Of these, Hernández, Labañino and Guerrero arrived in Cuba after being released last December 17 (previously had returned after serving their sentences Fernando and René), in a context marked by the announcement of Havana and Washington to carry out actions after moving towards normalization of links.

According to reports, in this conclave the future agenda of solidarity with Cuba will be designed, which main points are the elimination of the economic blockade imposed by the United States, to take out the name of the island of the list compiled by Washington on countries sponsoring terrorism and the closure of the illegal military base in Guantanamo.

Also, Freire said that this event is one of the pre 70th anniversary of the creation of the World Trade Union

Federation, whose president, Abdullah Motayo, attend sessions of exchange activities.

They will also participate, after a few years without attend the meeting, three representatives of trade unions in India, a country geographically distant but also makes us feel their support, like other remote countries like Australia or Nigeria, said.

The event, to be held at the Havana Convention Center, also will be attended by some 200 national participants, and the unions will be represented industries, hotels and tourism, gastronomy and services, as well as the public administration.
