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Blockade on Cuba Persists Despite Normalization Process with U.S.

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Cuba denounced at the UN the persistence of actions related with U.S. blockade on the island after December 17, 2014, date in which presidents Barack Obama and Raul Castro announced the reestablishment of diplomatic relations between both countries.

Despite that represented an important step to the beginning of a process toward the future normalization of relations between both nations, the application of measures of commercial and financial siege on the part of U.S. institutions and enterprises, continued to harm and cause deprivations to the Cuban people.

The report presented to the United Nations by Cuba on the effects of the blockade on the island even after the said announcement by both presidents, included the negative by U.S. Enterprise Gen Tech Scientific to sell chromatographs used for research and diagnostics in biochemistry, pharmaceuticals and medicine.

Some weeks later, on January 18, 2015, it was known that the company, also of the U.S., PayPal, froze the account of Brian and Jan Pichi, a couple of Canadian horticulturists due to the fact that they used it to pay for a three-week trip to the Caribbean nation in order to know more about Cuban agriculture.

On February, 2015 the subsidiary of the Santander bank in Mexico, rejected to make a transference of 68 thousand 290 euros emitted by the solidarity with Cuba group in Germany to the Center of Latin American Monetary Studies, paying for its membership quota.

Some days later, the company PayPal rejected to make a transference of 90 euros emitted by the solidarity with Cuba group in Germany, Fliife-Dormund, due to blockade regulations.

On March 12, 2015, German bank Commerzbank, agreed with the Treasury and Justice Departments, the Federal Reserve, the department of financial services and the Office of the District Attorney of New York to pay a fine of one billion 710 million dollars for violating regulations against Cuba, Iran, Sudan and Myanmar, among them 56

transactions related to Cuba.

As a result of this, Cuban funds have been frozen for 50 thousand Pounds sterling and 53 thousand francs preventing bills to be paid with that money.

On March 20, 2015, the funds transferred from Cuba to finance current expenses of its embassies in Kiribati, Equatorial Guinea and Kazajstan were rejected by several banks due to the blockade regulations against Cuba.

Other complaints in that field are included in the report to the UN and show the irrational enacting of the blockade restrictions even when adjustments were being made to open both embassies in Washington and Havana.

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