



COUNCIL OF CUBAN WORKERS

PEDRO PABLO ALVAREZ RAMOS

Pedro Pablo was born on January 25, 1948 in the Municipality of Arroyo Naranjo, Havana, Cuba. He is the General Secretary of the Unitary Council of Cuban Workers (CUTC). This organization is affiliated as an Associate Member to the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) and to the Trade Union Confederation of the Americas (TUCA). Originally, the CUTC was a member of the former Latin America Workers Central (CLAT) and the World Confederation of Labour (WCL).

In 1990 with a group of co-workers he founded the dissident organization “Armonia,” with the compromise to fight peacefully for the necessary political, economic and social changes in Cuba. He participated in 1991 in the foundation of an independent worker union organization on the island, the General Workers Union of Cuba (UGTC). A few years later, in 1994, he was elected President of the Laboring Union of Cuba (ULC), which in 1995 united with the Independent Union Organization of Cuba (USIC), later merging to form the Unitary Council of Cuban Workers (CUTC). Because of his effective activism and leadership among workers, the Cuban authorities arrested him several times. Prior to his most recent sentence of five years he was also imprisoned from October 2000 to January 2001. He was the General Secretary of the CUTC at the time of his imprisonment on March 18, 2003.

From its inception, the CUTC implemented a wide campaign in defense of the workers, receiving praise and “the respect and admiration of the working class.” Because of its work on behalf of the workers, both the CLAT and the WCL recognized the CUTC as a full member in each organization. At the time of his detention during the Spring 2003, Pedro Pablo Alvarez Ramos also was a member of the Relators’ Committee of the “All United” and of the Executive Board of the Citizens Organizing Committee of the Varela Project in Havana with Oswaldo Paya. On April 5, 2003, he was unjustly sentenced in a Summary Trial to 25 years of imprisonment by Cuban authorities. During almost 5 years he was held in different maximum-security prisons in Cuba and endured the most cruel and inhumane prison regimen. On December 16, 2008, the Spanish Government successfully mediated his release, but as part of the agreement he was obligated to leave the country against his will.

Today, Pedro Pablo Alvarez Ramos is living in Barcelona, Spain, where he continues his tireless work defending the rights of the workers and the fight for the freedom of all Cuban political prisoners, particularly of his mates in the independent union movement who remain in jail. He continues his work towards the interior of Cuba with the members of the CUTC, whom maintain very high the banner for the fight for freedom, human rights, the release of all political and trade union prisoners and for the struggle to achieve independent and free trade unions and a real democracy for the Cuban people. Since his freedom he has participated in many international events in Europe and the United States where he has carried the representative voice of Cuban workers.