

INTERVENTION BY ACADEMIC FREEDOM OBSERVATORY

Academic freedom and freedom of thought in Cuba: violations of students' rights.

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Slide 1. Presentation, title of report and name of representative.

Slide 2. Background: III UPR Cycle

Three recommendations were received regarding violations of the rights associated with academic freedom on the island:

- Policies aimed at fostering a culture of respect, tolerance and non-discrimination in the educational scenario(24.278) .
- Prioritize the promotion, protection and realization of the right to education for all (24.274).
- Improve the quality and rigor in the teaching and learning process (24.276).

Even so, educational institutions continue to be spaces of systematic violation of human rights, and the State shows no interest in solving it.

Slide 3. Systematic violation of rights against professors and students

Unjustified dismissal and expulsion, arbitrary detentions, persecution and threats in the Cuban education system still being a State policy since the "Law for the Reform of Higher Education in Cuba", promulgated by the Higher Council of Universities attached to the Ministry of Education in 1962.

Slide 4. Limitation of the legally supported right to education

Education in Cuba is not for everyone. Education in Cuba persecutes, excludes and marginalizes those who think differently from the Cuban government.

Slogans such as "The university is for revolutionaries" in addition to the "Law Reform of Higher Education in Cuba", constitute State policy, where those who do not follow the established ideological current are marginalized and deprived of their academic rights and freedoms, from study to the exercise of the profession.

Slide 5. International recognition?

UNESCO highlights Cuba as a country with "inclusive and quality education“.

That ignores Resolutions 85/2016 and 10/2018, issued by the Ministry of Higher Education, which legitimize political and ideological discrimination in universities.

Slide 6. DATA

Low academic performance and teacher deficits are evidence of the poor quality of education in Cuban institutions.

Since 2018, 32 cases of discrimination on political and ideological grounds have been registered in higher education institutions, introducing online tracking as a modern harassment tool even during the search for information on websites with historical content.

OLA has also documented more than 600 incidents of systematic violations of criminalized rights against academics and students, who were retaliated against for participating in these demonstrations.

Slide 7. Suggested recommendations for the fourth cycle of UPR

Cease the practices of persecution, discrimination and exclusion of students and teachers within the educational system.

Repeal laws, resolutions and decrees that tacitly and directly exclude those who think differently from the ideological guidelines framed by the Communist Party in Cuba, in relation to the right to freedom of thought.

Slide 8. Suggested recommendations for the fourth cycle of UPR

To tend to the fulfillment of a universal education, which does not exclude by principles of creed (ideological, religious and scientific).

Reform the university training facilities, from the infrastructure of the building to the teaching material, instituting the right and freedom to navigate online, to guarantee conditions of academic studies in accordance with the standards linked to a truly inclusive and quality education, therefore unmarked from the policy of the State.

Slide 9. Thanks