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Repudiation rallies against Cuban baseball players: And what about Florida's Anti-Riot Act?

By: M. H. Lagarde  
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In addition to watching an exciting ballgame between the national teams of Cuba and Venezuela on day 1 of the Olympic Qualifier held at Palm Beaches' BallPark, the whole nation had the opportunity to watch —live— the moral nature of those anti-Cuban groups that “bravely” intend to topple the Cuban Revolution 90 miles away from Cuba.

As it has been previously reported through social networks, the fascist gangs rooted in this city flocked to the stadium to sabotage an Olympic qualifier sport event.

Some of them could not enter the ballpark due to the restrictions set in the sport facility, but stayed outside and started yelling for freedom —what a contradiction— and carried out repudiation rallies against anyone not sharing their ideals, as it happened to Cuban journalist Edmundo García, to whom the police barely saved from being battered.

Others, the lucky ones, enjoyed the game from the bleachers behind home plate, and they immediately showed the political obscenity of their cause for the freedom of Cuba and, simultaneously, laid bare the false and circus-like nature of their protest. More than once, those who were there to insult Cuban players, could not hold back their emotions and enthusiasm when Erisbel Arruebarrena and Lisbán Correa hit their homers.

Hate rallies and the fact that a fan entered the pitch without the proper and fast response of authorities not only go against the sport spirit of an international event, but also expose the complicity of Florida's authorities with that embarrassing situation.

It is no secret the “people” supporting behind the scenes these “posters fighters” who, deep in the hearts, wanted Cuba to win.

It is important to highlight the role played by Anti-Cuban Senators Marco Rubio and María Elvira Salazar when both tried to hinder the granting of entry visas to Cuban baseball players, which jeopardized the participation of our team in the sport event.

With a complete cynicism, the press office of Cuban-American Senator Rubio, the Highest-Ranking Member of the Western Hemisphere Subcommittee, rejected last May 28<sup>th</sup> in its Twitter profile the quick granting of entry visas to Cuban baseball players:

*“Every day, Sen. Rubio’s office hears from Cubans who have to wait long periods of time for a visa to visit their families or for medical treatment. Yet, the Biden Admin., knowing the Cuban regime’s attacks to our diplomats in #Havana, expedited admission to the Cuban baseball team.”*

On the other hand, the Cuban-American congresswoman María Elvira Salazar, who recently proposed the absurd idea of turning the illegal U.S. Naval Base in Guantanamo into a U.S. Consulate, posted in Twitter:

*“It is OFFENSIVE that Biden’s administration had expedited admission to the Castro’s baseball team while common Cubans die waiting for a humanitarian visa! #SOSCuba.”*

Neither is a secret that Marco Rubio —publicly acknowledged by Trump as the mastermind of his administration’s policies against Cuba— is one of the masters of a Youtube puppet named Alexander Otaola Casal, whose platform served to promote and encourage the provocative actions against any member of the Cuban delegation.

After such signs of hatred and intolerance, we may wonder, in line with the statement released by the Cuban Baseball Federation, whether the U.S. government, as a host nation, and the Organizing Committee, will both fulfill the obligation of providing security to all participants in this sport event, or they just will stand idly due to the pressures received by the Anti-Cuban mafia based in Miami.

And then another question raises: Will the governor of Florida enforce the Anti-Riot Act in his city, signed by himself, which criminalizes those who try to impose their ideas to others by means of protests? Or is such a decree only in force against black people and Democrats?

**Translated by Sergio A. Paneque Díaz / CubaSí Translation Staff**

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