Ukraine Recalls Cuban Humanitarian Programme for Chernobyl Children

25/04/2016

Activists of the movement of solidarity with Cuba in Ukraine recalled the beginning of the Humanitarian Program of free medical care for the children affected by the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, three decades after the tragic accident.

One of the commemoration activities to thank again the solidarity of the small Caribbean island took place at school number 176, in Kiev, with the participation of students, teachers, members of the solidarity movement in this country and the Association of Cuban Residents.

The school offered a cultural evening and a presentation of some passages of the dramatic nuclear accident, which occurred on April 26, 1986, registered as the most serious in history by the fact of having reached the level 7 (the highest) on the International Nuclear Event Scale.

More than 24,000 people, including 20,423 children were treated in Cuba as part of the health program created by the Government at the beginning of the 1990's to rehabilitate children, teenagers and young people affected by the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant.

It was also mentioned the fact that the Caribbean island was one of the first countries that helped the Ukrainian people 26 years ago.

On March 29, 1990 at the expense of the Cuban side the first plane flew to Havana, where it was received by the historic leader of the Revolution, Fidel Castro.

Noting the effects of human tragedy, 'Fidel promised that Cuba would do everything possible to treat young Ukrainians as much as necessary'. During 21 years of the program, Cuban doctors returned the lives of thousands of Ukrainian children, the teachers and parents thanked.

The president of the NGO "Children of Tarara", Yulia Palamarchuk said this program was a selfless contribution of the Cuban people, a sign of true friendship and stressed the need to continue it.

Ambassador Ernesto Sentí pointed out Cuba held out a helping hand to the Ukrainian people, 'in the same way that people supported us during the early years of the Revolution'.