Global Cuba solidarity campaign underway
Pastors for Peace and its founder
Lucius Walker honored

- THE 50 years of solidarity and commitment demonstrated by the Interfaith Community Organization (IFCO)- Pastors for Peace was highlighted in a commemorative event at the Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples (ICAP) headquarters in Havana.

- Speaking to Gramma International, Elio Gámez Neyra, first vice president of the Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples (ICAP), explained that actions kicked off with a solidarity act commemorating the 20th anniversary of the murder of young Italian Fabio Di Celmo, who died after a bomb placed by Salvadoran mercenary Raúl Ernesto Cruz León, exploded in Havana’s Copacabana Hotel; an act of terrorism financed by counter-revolutionary groups of Cuban-origin based in southern Florida.

- He also noted that the ceremony served to remember and pay tribute to all victims of terrorism throughout the history of the Cuban Revolution.

- According to the ICAP official, organizers of the international campaign are putting together cultural events, rallies, marches, and protests outside United States embassies and diplomatic establishments in various countries.

- He went on to note that in addition to tributes, participants will call on parliamentarians and government officials to present motions and documents condemning the blockade and acts of terrorism against the Caribbean island.

- All of these activities are being organized by the world Cuba solidarity movement, present in 152 countries, and committed to condemning global terrorism.

- "Many events, ranging from lobbying in the U.S. Congress, to a march and solidarity act outside the White House, took place from September 11-16 in Washington," noted Gámez Neyra.

- Also held were talks and panel discussions on the damage caused by the U.S. blockade, despite the reestablishment of diplomatic relations.

- The 50th anniversary of the assassination of Heroic Guerrilla Ernesto Che Guevara in Bolivia is also being commemorated during these days of action.

- Likewise, friends of Cuba in Spain announced a special series of events that will take place October 2-9, while the Che Presente, Cuba Solidarity Encounter and 25th anniversary of the Socialist Cuba Initiative Friendship Association are set to be held in Belgium.

- In Cuba meanwhile, mass and political organizations are joining the campaign with various activities taking place in work and educational centers, including acts, marches, and cultural events, during which participants will call on the international community to condemn the imperialist anti-Cuban policy.

- The ICAP official went on to note that various dates are being commemorated on the island in September and October, such as the coup d’etat in Chile on September 11, 1973; the anniversary of the unjust imprisonment of the Cuban Five in the United States; the 1976 murder of politician and Chilean Ambassador, Orlando Letelier in the United States; the bombing of a Cuban de Aviación plane over Barbados in October that same year; and the assassination of Argentine-Cuban guerrilla Ernesto Che Guevara, October 8, 1967, in Bolivia.

- Meanwhile, Gámez Neyra explained that Committees for Defense of the Revolution will hold neighborhood meetings to denounce the effects of the economic blockade on the island; a policy which has been almost unanimously condemned by the international community in the United Nations General Assembly.

- The event will also serve to demonstrate the aggression by the U.S. and regional oligarchs against revolutionary and progressive governments of Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as Parliamentary coup plotters, backed by Washington, who threatens the political stability and sovereignty of the peoples.

- His leadership helped to strengthen initiatives of an international character such as support for Haitian refugees, delegations and caravans to Central America. The work to gather donations for Cuba served as a way to disseminate the country’s reality among the U.S. population, and build a movement to advocate for an end to hostile U.S. policies, González noted.

- He recalled the significance of the second caravan to Cuba, which challenged U.S. authorities across the border into Mexico at Laredo, Texas, after touring 90 cities, and collecting 12.5 tons of medicine, powdered milk, bicycles, school supplies and Bibles.

- A bus was confiscated there, in an attempt to detain the caravan, leading to a hunger strike until the cargo was allowed to proceed.

- "They never imagined that this vehicle would become a symbol of the struggle against the blockade and a genuine expression of friendship between our peoples," González affirmed.

- He commented that IFCO participated actively in the struggle to return the child Elian González to his father in Cuba, and joined the worldwide campaign to free the guerrillas unjustly imprisoned in the United States. He concluded his remarks expressing gratitude to all the organizations and Cuban participants to join caravans, saying, "Cuba needs the solidarity of those who stand up united to support our sovereignty."