

ANTI-CUBA TERRORIST ATTACKS – THE CANADIAN CONNECTION – July 2012

Since Cuba toppled the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista in 1959, Cubans have been subjected to repeated, politically-motivated terrorist attacks emanating mostly from southern Florida. In 1961, the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) of the U.S. funded, organized, and armed the 1,500 mercenaries who carried out the failed invasion of Cuba near the Bay of Pigs. Successive U.S. administrations in collusion with extremist right-wing Cuban American groups in Florida such as Alpha 66, Brothers to the Rescue, Brigada 2506, and CORU (Coordinated United Revolutionary Organizations), have continued to organize and support bombings, assassinations, and economic sabotage against Cuba.

How is Canada Involved?

<p>On September 4, 1997, a Montreal resident, Fabio di Celmo, was one fatality in a deadly campaign of anti-Cuba sabotage that targeted Cuban tourist facilities. Di Celmo was killed by a bomb which exploded in the Hotel Copacabana in Havana. According to trial testimony, well-known anti-Cuba terrorist and former paid CIA operative, Luis Posada Carriles, was the mastermind.</p>	<p>On April 4, 1972, a bomb was set off in the Cuban trade offices in Montreal killing Cuban consular diplomat, Sergio Pérez Castillo, wounding seven people and causing substantial damage.</p>
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- 1966 - A bazooka attack took place against the Cuban Embassy in Ottawa; bombs exploded at the Cuban trade offices in Ottawa;
- 1967 - An explosive device was detonated at the Cuba Pavillion at Expo in Montreal; a bomb exploded at the warehouses of Fraser Brothers, a Canadian firm trading with Cuba; Cuban trade offices were bombed in Montreal;
- 1968 - The Canada Tourism office on Fifth Avenue in New York City and offices of a Canadian airline in Miami were attacked;
- 1971 - A bomb exploded in the Cuban trade offices in Montreal;
- 1974 - A bomb exploded in the Cuban Embassy in Ottawa;
- 1976 - An explosive device was lobbed at the Cuban Consulate in Montreal;
- 1980 - A bomb was set off at the Cuban Consulate in Montreal.

Canadian authorities, aware of these attacks and cognizant of connections of suspects to terrorist groups in Florida, have never laid any charges against the perpetrators.

After its 2003 annual conference, the Law Union of Ontario passed a resolution underscoring the responsibilities of the Canadian government to ensure the safety of Canadians vacationing in Cuba. It urged Canada as a member of the Organization of American States (OAS), to demand that the United States government comply with the Inter-American Convention Against Terrorism and immediately cease harbouring, aiding and abetting organizations that plot and encourage terrorist activities against the people and government of Cuba...

Other Terrorist Activities

- October 6, 1976 - A timed bomb exploded aboard a Cubana Airlines passenger flight from Barbados, killing all 73 persons on board. Days before, Posada Carriles spoke of plans to "hit" a Cuban airliner. The U.S. refuses to extradite him to Venezuela so that he could be tried;
- April 27, 2012 - The offices of Airline Brokers, a Miami area-based charter agency, were destroyed by arson. The agency owner, Vivian Mannerud, helped the Miami archdiocese organize a trip of more than 300 pilgrims to Cuba to take part in Pope Benedict XVI's visit to Cuba.

The above is a miniscule sample of terrorist attacks aimed mainly at Cuba, leaving 3,478 people dead and 2,099 wounded. However, lives lost and property damage have also occurred in the U.S. and in Canada.

Conclusion

The undercover work undertaken by the Cuban Five saved the lives of numerous people and, in the end, was aimed at preventing the loss of life of innocent people. The Working Group of the Human Rights Commission of the United Nations, Amnesty International, the Law Union of Ontario, the President of the Canadian Labour Congress, Nobel Prize winners, and hundreds of thousands of other organizations and people around the world have called for the release of the Cuban Five.